

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Sonia's story
The Italian girl who married Rajiv Gandhi and became part of an Indian dynasty

Living again
How the bereaved families and victims of the Harrods bomb have rebuilt their lives

Money talk
Last word on the City revolution from Walter B. Ristow, retiring head of Citibank

Tartan Cheddar
Philip Howard sniffs out Britain's top cheese in Scotland

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr John Laws of Fimble, London, and Miss Susan Cornish of Fremantle, Southampton, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 23; how to play, information service, back page.

EEC reveals car price strategy

EEC Commissioners have announced measures to ensure that from January 1 the price of similar models of cars does not vary by more than 12 per cent between Community countries. The ruling was welcomed by the Consumers' Association.

Cuts 'conceded'

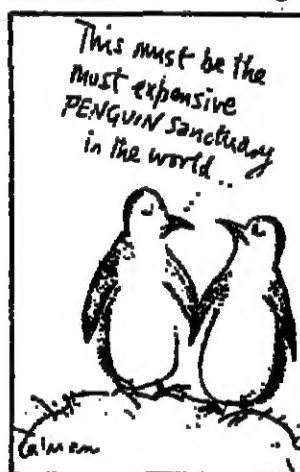
Mr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said the Government had conceded rate support grant cuts of £117.8 million for 16 Conservative-controlled counties. Page 2

Mauritania coup

President Haidalla of Mauritania, ousted in an overnight coup, arrived in Brazzaville, the Congo capital, from the Franco-African summit in Burundi. Earlier story, page 6

Surplus schools

About 600 schools need to be closed by 1990 because of falling pupil numbers, the Audit Commission for Local Authorities said. Page 3



Falklands doubt

Britain should adopt a more positive tone towards Argentina over the Falklands, the Commons foreign affairs committee said. But it failed to agree on both countries' legal claims. Page 5

Boxing ban

The Boxing Board of Control will ban block bookings of dates and halls by promoters, a move which could change the structure of British boxing. Page 24

Leading page, 15

Leading articles: Medical advertising; North London Polytechnic; Samuel Johnson Letters; On housing, from Mr David Winnick, MP, and others; motorway safeguarding, from Mr A. K. McCombie; voting rights, from Mr C. Tugendhat and others; Books, page 8

James Fenton on the letters of D. H. Lawrence; Nicholas Shakespeare reviews fiction, and Tim Heald thrillers; Sir Roy Strong on ecclesiastical dress; Patrick Garland reviews the Midlands

Features, pages 10, 14

Nickelback Gorbachov in perspective: Poland three years after martial law; disinterment a Pitt; danger, builders at work. Spectrum: why Wogan is on the move

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Mr Willy Paynter, Mr Victor Shklovsky

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Walker agrees to meet TUC team on pit peace talks

● Moves to end the miners' strike have resumed with the Government's agreement to meet TUC leaders today or tomorrow to discuss the dispute
● Local authorities have given large amounts of money to striking miners, including additions to social service assistance and donations to support groups (page 2)
● The old argument within the NUM about its constitution has been brought to a head by the Nottinghamshire moderates' "union within a union" move (page 2)
● Yesterday saw the first coal produced in Yorkshire since the dispute began. Production also began later at a second pit in the county (back page)

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

New moves to end the 40-week pit strike got under way last night after the Government agreed to meet a deputation of TUC leaders to talk about the dispute.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, is to meet the seven-member TUC liaison group, which has been monitoring developments in the strike today or tomorrow. He will come under pressure to "facilitate a resumption of negotiations between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers."

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, was in touch with Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, yesterday afternoon. He said afterwards: "There are a lot of ideas around. We shall be probing every good idea."

The board was unaware of the initiative until it was announced yesterday evening. Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman for the board reacted cautiously to the announcement, reiterating the board's formal negotiating position. "If the TUC have persuaded the NUM to recognize the fact that the cost of production is a factor in colliery closures, then we have always expressed a

willingness to talk," Mr Eaton said. Privately, the board's managers remain to be persuaded that the miners have shifted from their hard-line strategy.

However, the TUC team believes that there is scope for a resumption of negotiation, based on the miners' union's formula that the board should recognize that it cannot carry out its original intention to shut down four million tonnes of capacity in the current financial year, which ends on March 1.

Instead of withdrawing the pit closure programme, the miners argue that the board should "not proceed" with it, and should make future colliery shutdowns consistent with the provisions of the 1974 Plan for Coal.

At the end of their five-hour meeting yesterday the TUC group reaffirmed its determination to help in finding a negotiated settlement and, in line with that, had arranged an "urgent meeting" with Mr Walker "at which the TUC representatives will press the Government to do everything open to them to facilitate a resumption of negotiations between the National Coal

Board and the National Union of Mineworkers". But if bilateral talks between the miners and the board do take place as a result of the latest initiative the TUC will not supervise the detailed conduct of the talks.

The board was somewhat taken aback by the TUC's going over its head directly to the minister responsible for the coal industry, but if there is any serious prospect of the union making sufficient concessions to restart negotiations, the board will pocket its pride and go back into direct discussions with miners' leaders.

The miners' union national executive meeting in Sheffield today will be given a report on the latest steps to restart the peace process. Mr Scargill is expected to be absent, appearing in court in Rotherham to answer a charge of obstruction remaining from the days of the mass pickets at Orgreave coking plant in South Yorkshire.

The executive will also consider the results among 30,000 union members in Nottinghamshire, who are voting overwhelmingly for a new area constitution that remove them from the authority of the national union leadership.

Stores to stay shut on Sunday

By Staff Reporters

Debenhams and the Habitat Mothercare group yesterday dropped their plans to open stores in England and Wales on the two Sundays left before Christmas. Debenhams said it had been influenced by the Prime Minister's unequivocal statement in the Commons this week condemning moves before Parliament to deal with the Audit Committee's recommendations that Sunday trading should be allowed.

Debenhams added that it wanted to protect employees against "unprecedented" legal moves threatened by some local authorities against its stores. The local authorities had applied for injunctions to stop the proposed Debenhams openings. The applications, due to be heard tomorrow, were by Guildford, Nuneaton, Bedford, Nottingham, Derby, Plymouth, Chelmsford, Norwich, Southampton and Ipswich.

Sir Terence Conran of Habitat Mothercare said last night that his group would cease Sunday trading to stop the issue from becoming "a political weapon". He expected "a prompt" response by the Government, however.

Labour NEC backs study of Militant

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party's centre-right was claiming victory over the left last night after the ruling national executive committee agreed to set up a working party to study the Militant Tendency. The committee also agreed to set up a working party to study the Militant Tendency. The committee also agreed to set up a working party to study the Militant Tendency.

The party is likely next month to establish a working party to study the extent of the influence of the Militant and other fringe organizations in the party and produce a document highlighting the ideological differences between them and Labour.

The move, backed by Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley, was seen last night as the start of a new ideological battle against Militant, a tacit admission that the attempts to curb its influence by individual expulsions cannot succeed. But the left last night was quick to point out that the proposed study was not an inquiry in the organizational sense and was not the so called "purge" many rightwingers wanted.

At the NEC a motion calling for a general inquiry was withdrawn by agreement, and substituted with the motion, in the name of Mr Ken Cure, chairman of the party's appeals

Exodus of fear from Bhopal

From Trevor Fishlock, Bhopal

Thousands of people fled in an "exodus of fear" from this disaster city yesterday, frightened by plans to make its killer chemical plant safe.

They crammed into buses, trains and cars. Last night there were long lines of vehicles at petrol pumps. "This is an exodus of fear," said Mr Raj Singh, a factory secretary. "People are stunned by disaster. They do not trust anyone in authority."

"The place is full of rumours. People are helpless and you cannot blame them for wanting to run."

Their fear sprang from the announcement that part of the Union Carbide chemical plant will go into temporary production from Sunday, so that 15

tonnes of the deadly gas that killed at least 2,000 and injured more than 50,000 can be made safe.

The authorities say there is no danger, and no need to evacuate. Mr Ajay Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, said he would demonstrate his confidence by being in the plant when the operation starts.

Even so, the authorities have said they will provide transport and camps for people who wish to leave.

Unconfirmed reports are circulating in Bhopal that chemical warfare experts have arrived in the city to study the after effects of the lethal gas (Our Foreign Staff writes). An Agence France Presse

report quotes unnamed sources as saying the experts - from the United States, West Germany, Britain and Canada - are genuine doctors involved in defence research.

● SHEFFIELD: Eight people last night were barricaded in an office of Union Carbide's British headquarters here in a protest over "the activities of all multinational corporations".

Police let the protesters stay after they undertook not to cause damage and said they would leave today.

● WASHINGTON: Union Carbide's methyl isocyanate plant in West Virginia was pronounced safe yesterday by a union official and the head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Although Mr Maxwell conceded defeat of his \$44 million takeover last night, Waddington has threatened to use British law to disenfranchise Mr Maxwell's 23 per cent stake in Waddington unless true ownership of the foundation is disclosed.

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Serene Lyons with her mother yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

Baby of 10 months gets pacemaker

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heart of a girl aged 10 months is beating normally with the help of the smallest electronic pacemaker implanted in Britain.

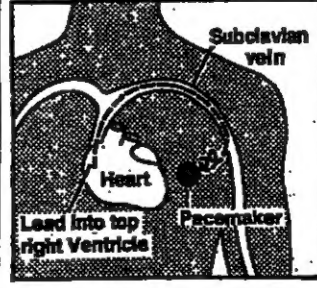
The operation was the third which the baby, Serene Lyons, had undergone. The first was to mend a defect in the aorta and the second to close a hole and repair a valve in other chambers of the heart.

When Serene's mother, Mrs Susan Lyons, brought her back to the Brompton Hospital, London, yesterday for a check-up, from their home in Herne Bay, Kent, Dr Elliott Shyne, a paediatric cardiac consultant, described her progress as marvellous.

He called the operation to insert the pacemaker, perfected and performed by Dr David Ward, the hospital's senior registrar, a remarkable surgical development.

Dr Shynebourne said it was possible that as Serene's heart grew stronger it might be possible to do without the electronic aid.

Although small - 41mm by



62mm by 6mm thick and weighing 28 grams - it is not the pacemaker's size that is the main advance in treatment.

The innovation is the way in which the instrument is connected to the heart. In addition, it can be reprogrammed by radio control, should Serene need a different pattern of stimulus as she begins to toddle and then run about.

The usual method of connection is to make an incision through which the lead from the pacemaker is attached to the outside of the heart. Dr Ward used a surgically less invasive procedure, but a much more intricate one in a baby.

He threaded the Teflon-coated silver wire, 3mm thick, through the subclavian vessel at the top of the arm into the right ventricle of the heart. A piece of the wire was protruding from its coating to penetrate the wall of the heart chamber.

Continued on back page, col 6

Police hold two as Durban sit-in ends

From Michael Hornsby, Durban

Three leading South African anti-apartheid campaigners left the haven of the British Consulate in Durban yesterday, where they sought refuge 91 days ago, and two of them were at once arrested and charged with high treason, an offence which carries a maximum penalty of death.

Mr Archie Gumede, an elderly African who is one of three national presidents of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a multi-racial alliance of opposition groups, and Mr Paul Dlamini, a senior member of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) and UDF affiliate, were arrested inside the Barclays Bank Building in which the consulate is located.

Police officers were waiting for the two men as they stepped out of a lift on the ground floor. They were taken away through a side door into a cordoned-off back street out of sight of a crowd of several thousand people of all races calling for their release outside the main entrance.

The third member of the consulate sit-in, Mr Billy Nair, another senior NIC member, was allowed out, and was borne away on the shoulders of his supporters as the crowd, chanting "UDF, UDF", surged down the street after them.

Mr Nair said neither he or his colleagues were afraid of arrest. "We as freedom fighters are prepared to continue the struggle irrespective of the consequences," he said.

All three men complained of "psychological warfare" used against them by the British Government, which had constantly put pressure on them to leave the consulate. They said, however, that conditions had been "bearable", despite their being kept in a single room.

Continued on back page, col 5

Night ban on London juggernauts

By Colin Hughes

Juggernaut lorries are to be banned at night and weekends from the roads of Greater London, by what councillors claim is Britain's "biggest-ever traffic order".

The decision, taken yesterday, will come into force next June, unless the Government succeeds in forcing a public inquiry to challenge and prevent the move.

The ban includes all heavy goods vehicles of more than 16.5 tonnes in laden weight, effectively three-axle articulated lorries, except those which are granted an exemption licence.

Exemptions have been included mainly to enable lorries carrying fresh food to deliver to markets.

The ban covers the 610 square miles of Greater London between 9pm and 7am, and from 1pm on Saturdays, except for a handful of major trunk roads which will remain open to heavy goods traffic.

At present the council estimates that more than 25,000 lorries use London streets at night because clearer roads mean they can move through the capital more quickly than in daylight. The ban is being imposed to ease the stress on at least 250,000 London residents who the council believe suffer regular sleep disturbance because of the din.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, has said he will contest the decision. GLC lawyers have advised that councillors are within their powers to issue the order, but Mr Ridley believes he can force a public inquiry.

If he succeeds, the inquiry is likely to be brief, since the GLC has spent more than three years compiling evidence in support of the proposal.

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Thatcher favours some ads on BBC

By Julian Hayland and David Hewson

The Prime Minister is in favour of advertising being carried on a limited number of BBC television and radio programmes, it was stated on her behalf yesterday.

The disclosure of what was said to be Mrs Margaret Thatcher's long-held view, was made, by apparent coincidence, on the day that the BBC opened a campaign to increase the annual colour television licence fee by more than 40 per cent to £65.

Within a few hours of the BBC's new target being made public, MPs were reporting telephone calls from constituents saying that the proposed increase was excessive. One Conservative MP said that reaction from his constituents suggested that the Government would be most unwise to allow the full increase.

Many Conservatives were preparing to urge the Prime Minister and Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, who has the formal responsibility, to examine closely recent increases in BBC staff levels and rates of pay.

Official sources yesterday stressed that the question of whether the BBC should advertise was not under consideration by Ministers, and would not be considered in the context of the present application for an increased licence fee. But the Cabinet's collective thinking more often than not tends to accord with the Prime Minister's opinion, a fact that may therefore foreshadow the future shape of broadcasting.

Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, revealed yesterday that a £65 licence fee had been requested, at the start of a campaign to convince the public it was the best bargain in Britain.

The Government is unlikely to reach a decision until shortly before the present arrangement expires. The BBC's decision to go public will be frowned on by the Home Office. Traditionally, the licence for negotiations take place in private, but Mr Young cited a speech by the Home Secretary, calling on broadcasters to justify themselves to the public, as evidence that an open campaign was warranted.

The corporation's openness will not extend to publishing the value for money survey of the BBC being carried out by outside accountants at the request of the Home Secretary.

Mr Young said that the survey, which was due to be delivered at the end of this month, might contain confidential material it would be inappropriate to make public. Four separate surveys were being carried out, of which the Post-Marketing investigation was one.

The BBC was aware the new licence fee might prove difficult for the needy, said Mr Young.

Continued on back page, col 5

Not many people know that when the Martians land in Huddersfield they'll be reading bumf - it's the best medicine

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THAT! Michael Caine's almanac of amazing information £6.95

WHEN THE MARTIANS LAND IN HUDDERSFIELD Mike Harding's Christmas annual for adults £5.95

BUMF Alan Coren's dazzling new collection - full of comic feats £5.95

THE BEST MEDICINE Graeme Garden's book of medical humour £5.95

Best selling humour from Robson this Christmas

Robson Books

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Tory shires also to lose rate support grants, Labour says

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said yesterday that the Government had conceded rate support grant cuts of £117.8 million for 16 Conservative-controlled counties in Tuesday's statement to the Commons.

He said that the Tory shires would be faced with substantial rate increases or cuts in education and social services in 1985-86 as a direct result of the change.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, had tried to convey the impression, Mr Cunningham said, that the "so-called low-spending shire counties were being given preferential treatment" with higher spending targets.

But he added: "As a result of the substantial reduction in block-grant - over £600 million in real terms - very few councils will receive even the same in cash terms next year as they did in 1984-85."

It was declared government policy to burden the ratepayers with even greater rate bills as grant was cut back each year, Mr Cunningham said: "The

reward for Tory Surrey County Council - whose leading MP is Kenneth Baker - if it spends at the Government's target for 1985-86, is a massive reduction of £15.7 million in cash terms, equivalent to a precept increase of 5p.

The figure for Essex is a staggering £19 million loss of grant equivalent to an 8p county precept. For Berkshire, specially singled out in the statement yesterday, the loss of grant is £10.4 million, equivalent also to an 8p county precept.

Mr Cunningham's figures, confirmed by the Department of Environment last night, were (figures in millions of pounds):

County	Grant loss 1984/85 grant/86
Berkshire	19.4
Buckinghamshire	10.4
Cambridgeshire	10.4
Derbyshire	10.4
Essex	19.4
Gloucestershire	10.4
Hampshire	10.4
Herefordshire	10.4
Lincolnshire	10.4
Northamptonshire	10.4
North Yorkshire	10.4
Nottinghamshire	10.4
Oxfordshire	10.4
Shropshire	10.4
Suffolk	10.4
Surrey	15.7
Wiltshire	10.4
Worcestershire	10.4

Tory Oxfordshire enters cuts fray

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Oxfordshire yesterday became the first of several Conservative-controlled councils facing grant cuts to demand an explanation from the Government.

Mr Eric Bond, leader of the council, predicted a steep rate rise in the county next year and called for a meeting about it with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Government issued figures on Tuesday which showed that several county councils faced cuts in government grant totalling more than £100 million. Oxfordshire is to be cut from £49 million to less than £40 million and Conservative-run Surrey from £50 million to £36 million.

But the Government omitted to issue its own calculations showing that the English shires would receive a smaller share next year than that of the total grant being paid by the Government towards council spending.

The calculations were attached to papers given to council representatives on the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance. But the version of the papers which was later made public did not include the calculations.

Mr Bond made clear that Oxfordshire councillors had

Shares of government grant to English councils (%)

	Shires	London	Other metropolitan areas
1979	53.4	17.0	29.6
1980	53.6	16.7	29.7
1981	54.4	15.8	29.8
1982	55.3	15.1	29.6
1983	53.4	16.1	30.5
1984	52.3	16.0	30.7
1985	52.8	15.0	32.2

Source: Government papers.

Parliament, page 4

Healey decides to stand for reselection

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey has decided that he will stand for reselection as Labour candidate for Leeds East at the next general election.

The former deputy Labour leader, who is 67, has resisted weekend press reports that he intends to retire from politics at the next election. He has told friends that he would still like to be Foreign Secretary in the next Labour government.

Mr Healey was challenged by a hard-left opponent in the last reselection process but won the contest without difficulty, and it is thought possible that he might be returned unopposed in the forthcoming reselection round.

His decision to stay on reflects a strong confidence in the party.

Tories braced for slump in Enfield majority

Conservative Party managers

last night braced themselves for a dramatic slump in support in today's Enfield, Southgate, by-election, although they believed they had contained a large surge by the Liberal-SDP Alliance.

After a frantic final day's canvassing by both main camps, Alliance strategists were saying privately that the winning margin for either party would be no more than 2,000.

The Tories were resigned to seeing their 15,800 general election majority cut by at least half, but they remained confident of holding the seat, unless there was a very low turnout or a last-minute collapse of the Labour vote.

All three parties were agreed that the turn-out is likely to be between 50 and 55 per cent.

Drivers defy fog alert as crash inquiry opens

By David Cross

The M25 around London, scene of the multiple crash on Tuesday, was still being treated yesterday by some car and lorry drivers as a race-track, despite fresh warnings by traffic authorities to take special care in the fog.

Surrey and Kent police reported that a minority of motorists were driving too fast in poor visibility within a few miles of the scene near Limpsfield where rescue services were clearing the charred remains of 22 vehicles and their occupants, including nine heavy-goods vehicles.

Surrey police, who yesterday launched an inquiry into the accident, said that occasional fires had broken out as pieces of wreckage were removed.

The final toll last night stood at nine or 10, but the police said that most of the victims were so badly burnt and mutilated that they were unidentifiable.

In their efforts to name the dead, the authorities were having to use vehicle licence plate numbers to get in touch with families for details of how many occupants were likely to have been in each vehicle at the time of impact. No names were released.

However, the debris had been cleared and repairs were being made to the road surface in time for an anticipated reopening this morning of the closed section between junctions five and six.

The investigation into the crash, details of which are being sent to Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, will focus on a number of factors, not least the disclosure by the police that warning amber lights near the crash site were off at the time of the accident.

According to the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, dense and patchy fog in the Kent and Surrey areas had not been anticipated until 5.25 am, when the AA was in touch with their forecasting bureau.

The warning was transmitted routinely by the London Weather Centre and reached Kent police headquarters at 5.51 am. By the time it reached all Kent police stations at 6.18 am the crash had occurred.

As the dense patches of fog still clung to many parts of central and eastern England, the catalogue of traffic accidents continued to rise.

In the worst incident, two members of the pop group, Bucks Fizz, were yesterday undergoing hospital surgery after their coach was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry on the Great North Road on the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mike Nolan and Cheryl Baker were having glass removed from their backs and legs. Two other singers, Bobby Gee and Jay Aston, were able to return to their hotel after hospital treatment.

Letters, page 15

BMA bans doctors' aid in drawing up drugs list

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The executive of the British Medical Association yesterday ordered doctors to refuse to help health ministers to draw up a limited list of drugs for National Health Service use.

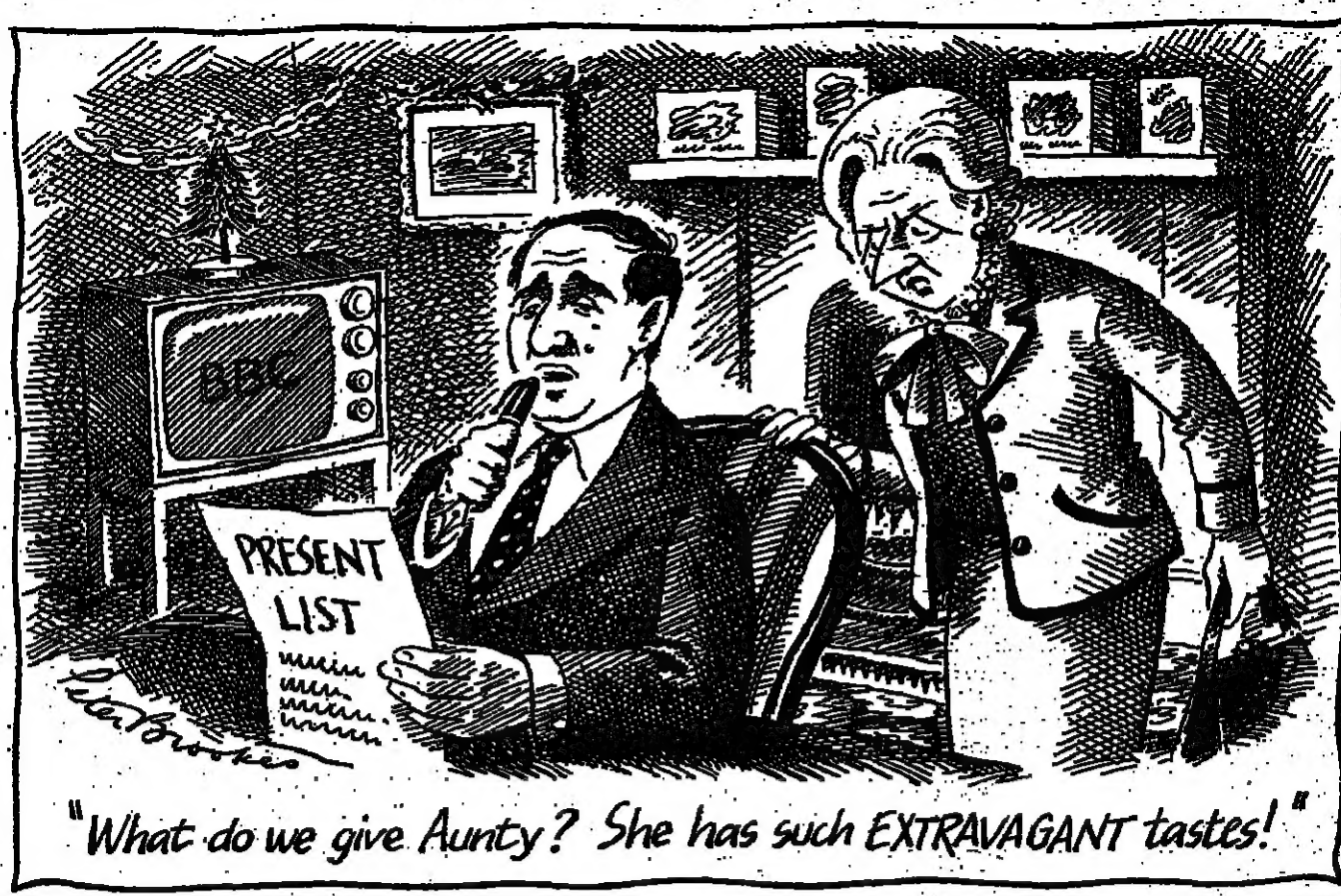
In an unprecedented move, the executive said: "Doctors should not enter into discussion with the health departments on proposals to limit prescribing by regulation."

Family doctors' leaders have already refused to negotiate over the limited list, and the BMA's council is now being asked to approve an approach by the association as a whole to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, to discuss other ways of cutting the health service drugs bill. But a BMA spokesman said: "We will not be discussing a limited list."

Letters have gone to all 29,000 family doctors urging them to refuse to help health ministers to draw up a limited list of drugs for National Health Service use.

Dr John Marks, chairman of the BMA council, said: "I do not believe it is possible to compile a national list which will not cause confusion to patients and damage in some cases." The association was happy to see doctors agreeing a limited list of drugs which could be over-riden when a patient had particular needs.

The BMA believed the proposal was contrary to the spirit of the NHS Act, which said that a comprehensive service should be provided.



'Corpse in the library' dispute

By David Nicholson-Lord

Corpse-snatching assumed a bizarre new dimension in Plymouth yesterday when a local painter steadfastly refused to hand over the body of a dead tramp so that the health authorities could give him a decent British burial.

In a plot more reminiscent of a Hammer film than an arcane bureaucratic wrangle, Mr Robert Leckiewicz wants the tramp, Mr Edwin McKenzie, embalmed, coated in acrylic and displayed naked in his library as a memento mori and a reminder of life's great mysteries.

Mr McKenzie, who was befriended by Mr Leckiewicz and named Diogenes because he lived in a barrel on a rubbish tip, died six weeks ago at the age of 72. Mr Leckiewicz envisaged his future role as "something like a large paperweight."

Plymouth City Council, however, is having none of it. It has invoked the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act, 1984, takes counsel's opinion and is threatening Mr Leckiewicz with legal action.

Mr Michael Fox, the city's environmental health officer, said yesterday: "Mr Leckiewicz assures us that displaying corpses in people's homes is a custom around the world, in places like Mexico or Italy. But this is not Mexico or Italy. This is Plymouth."

The affair has attracted considerable publicity and is regarded as an important test of what the Act means by "suitable arrangements" for the disposal of bodies. Mr Fox described it as "unique" and said he hoped the dispute would go to the courts so that the law could be clarified.

The miners' strike Union faces federation battle

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The union's rule book makes clear that it's 26 an national executive committee has "over-riding authority" over the areas, and in a section laying down rules for the areas, it states: "In any matter in which there is a conflict between the rules of the constituent association and the national union, the rules of the national union shall apply."

Rule 30 of the national book insists: "The decisions of the national executive committee on all matters and business which it undertakes or transacts under the union's rules and constitution shall be binding." The only way this authority can be overruled is by an appeal to the union's annual conference or a special delegate conference.

In practice, however, the areas have regularly defied the national executive committee without being called to book, and the only time this state of affairs has been tested in court, the judge found in favour of the areas.

That was in 1977, when the right-wing South Derbyshire and Leicestershire areas decided to defy the result of a national ballot and negotiate with the National Coal Board at area level for the introduction of incentive bonus schemes. They were subsequently followed by all the other areas.

However, until the Nottinghamshire area chose this week to seek the approval of its members for a new constitution that would effectively make the coalfield *de jure* as well as *de facto* independent of the national executive, no area had attempted to enshrine that relationship in its rules.

● Cash spent on the miners' strike was fully authorized by the union, Mr Anthony Scrivenor, QC, for the Derbyshire Area National Union of Mineworkers and three of its officials, told a High Court judge in London yesterday. He was opposing a move by two working miners who want a court order requiring the three to personally repay £1.7 million already spent on the strike.

● Mr Bill Paynter, former president and general secretary of the South Wales NUM, has died aged 81.

● Coal reserves estimated at 180 million tonnes have been discovered on the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire border. A five-year exploration programme, involving 80 boreholes in the 100 square miles within the Newark, Lincoln and Tuxford areas, has found evidence of seven coal seams.

Councils aid striking miners

By Paul Valley

Kirkcaldy District Council, £3,000; Dunfermline District Council, £2,000; Dinefwr Borough Council, £1,500.

Many other councils have given extra free school meals or food parcels during school holidays.

Doncaster Borough Council has extended the facilities it offers to all children eligible for free meals. More than 6,000 of these 17,000 pupils are the children of striking miners. The council has allocated £85,000 to provide each child, with a £5 food voucher for the 11-day Christmas break.

It is also spending £1,000 on bringing a circus out of its winter quarters to perform for the children and is allocating 150 free seats at every performance of *Dick Whittington* at the Doncaster Civic Theatre.

Derbyshire County Council has spent £233,000 during the strike on providing a food parcel with an average value of £3.75 every week for every child in families living on less than the minimum social security benefit level.

Leeds City Council has paid £43,600 to finance free meals during school holidays and a further £24,600 for food for under fives. Nottinghamshire County Council has given £21,000 to miners' wives support groups and to organizations providing food parcels.

West Glamorgan County Council found £9,500 to make up parcels of tinned foods for the South Wales NUM members.

Free or concessionary admission to sports and leisure centres for striking miners and families has been authorized by Gwent, Kirkcaldy, Chesterfield and West Glamorgan authorities. Rent-free premises for strike committees or wives' support groups have been allocated in Bassetlaw and Chesterfield, where council telephones are also available for the support committees.

Strikers in Bolsover can get free council saunas. In Glasgow, the city council has paid for 1,100 pantomime tickets for strikers' families to see *The Sleeping Beauty* in Warrington, striking miners, along with anyone else who cannot afford to pay gas or electricity bills, can obtain an interest-free loan.

There is even a facility for strikers to water-ski. South Yorkshire County Council will allow access to two of its water sports centres for half price at certain times of the day.

Radiation linked to insulation

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

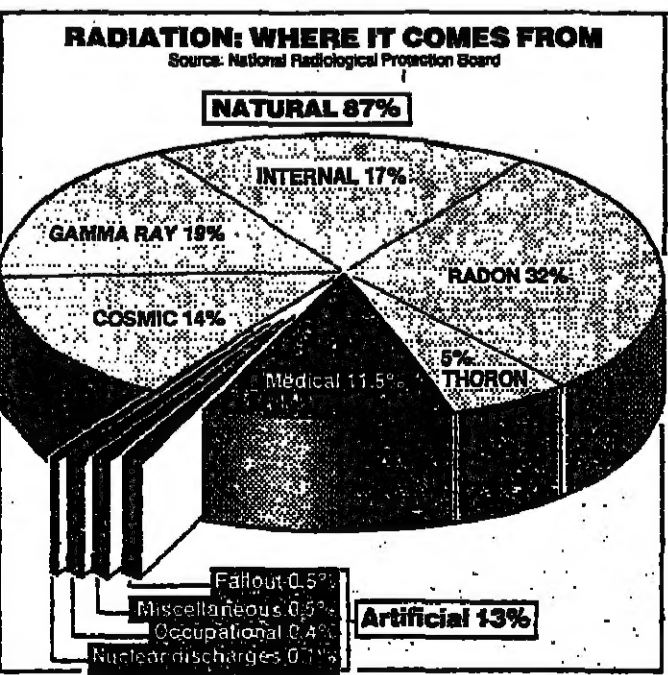
Better insulated houses result in a greater exposure to the population in general from the naturally occurring radioactive gas radon, according to the National Radiological Protection Board.

Radon gas has increased to 32 per cent simply because buildings increasingly have ventilation systems which allow the gas to accumulate. The recognized hazard of radon is to miners of uranium and some other ores, and to a lesser extent, coal miners.

The conclusion is contained in the latest assessment of all sources of radiation to which people are exposed: natural background radiation from cosmic rays and that emitted by rocks in the grounds, medical X-rays, occupational doses at nuclear power stations and waste treatment plants.

The chances of death from these forms of natural radiation are still small, compared with the chances of dying from accidents in the home or on the roads, or from smoking.

A measurement is also made of the "internal" exposure, or the dose which we give ourselves from substances like potassium-40, rubidium-87, and substances belonging to the uranium and thorium series of elements, all of which may be swallowed with food or inhaled.



When the grand total is made of all the sources, the figure is divided by 54 million to work out the average dose to each member of the population.

Since the last survey, was made six years ago, there have been large changes in the proportions received of the

Five men on badger hunt lose appeals

Five men found guilty of hunting for badgers in a Derbyshire wood lost their appeals yesterday against the main convictions against them.

The men, all members of the Derbyshire Naturalists' Club, were convicted by Airedale magistrates in Derbyshire last May after the Derbyshire Naturalists Trust took out a private prosecution.

Derby Crown Court was told that they had been found at a badger sett at Shining Cliff Woods, near Amberley, with spades and a Land Rover equipped with a steel cage.

The judge dismissed their appeal against a conviction under Section 1 of the Badgers Act, 1973, but their appeal against a conviction under Section 2 of the Act, relating to physically digging for a badger, was allowed on the ground of insufficient evidence.

Four of the men, who had been fined a total of £2,000, had their fines reduced to £1,000 each. They were Philip Harrison, aged 54, of Gleadthorpe, and Kevin Jackson, aged 50, of Stanton Hill, both of Nottingham, and John and David Harrison, both of Nottingham.

The fifth man, David Morris, aged 28, of Amberley, had been conditionally discharged. His appeal was allowed on the ground that his conviction was based on insufficient evidence.

Scrutiny on Whitehall handling of funds

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government has commissioned its top accountant, Mr Tony Wilson, recently recruited from the private sector at a salary double that of a Civil Service permanent secretary, to conduct a detailed study of how Whitehall budgets public money.

Mr Wilson, head of the Government Accountancy Service, will lead a team of officials examining the progress within various departments in putting into operation the Financial Management Initiative unveiled by the Prime Minister in 1982. They are due to report next July.

The Government announced yesterday that it will also tighten management within Whitehall by setting up a Joint Management Unit, operated by the Treasury and the Management and Personnel Office, to scrutinize administration.

The ultimate aim is to combine new measures of efficiency in Whitehall with the annual process, masterminded by the Treasury, of sharing out money between departments. The new unit replaces the Financial Management Unit.

Strike-free yard wins £50m order

By Edward Townsend and Ronald Faux

A French-owned oil rig yard on Clydebank in Scotland, formerly part of the John Brown engineering group, has won a £50 million order from the United States which could mean 500 new jobs.

The order, won by UIE (Scotland), a subsidiary of the Paris-based Bouygues Offshore company, was awarded by Transworld Drilling of Oklahoma after union officials at the yard wrote to Transworld saying there had been no strikes for 12 years and that workers would do their utmost to maintain the record.

The strike-free record was a very significant factor in winning the contract, according to Mr Joe Craig, the UIE managing director.

The "Marathon" "Gorilla" class rig due for delivery in June 1986, will be among the largest of its type in the world.

Only two other "Gorilla" rigs have been built, one in the US and the other in Singapore; the United Kingdom order was won in the face of competition from previous builders.

Defence costs up by £2.4bn

Changes made by ministers to proposals in Sir John Nott's review of 1981 have added over £2.4 billion to defence spending.

That figure was given yesterday by Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, in evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee. It excludes the increased cost of the Trident nuclear missile, but also excludes the costs of the Falkland Islands.

Despite the £2.4 billion increase in non-Falkland spending and that from 1986 the Government is assuming there will be no real growth in defence spending, Sir Clive insisted that there would be no need for a new review.

New technology dispute at paper

More than 60 members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) at The News, Portsmouth's evening paper, stopped work yesterday after sub-editors were suspended for refusing to co-operate with new technology plans.

Meanwhile a top-level meeting between the NUJ and the National Graphical Association (NGA) called to solve the dispute and work out a joint approach to new techniques throughout the industry, was adjourned without agreement until Monday.

The NUJ members at The News stopped work after a woman sub-editor was sent home for refusing to use a visual display terminal.

Meals staff cut

Gloucestershire's 1,150 school meals staff are being made redundant in the first stage of a plan to cut the £1 million school meals subsidy in favour of a self-financing service.

Wildlife killed

Hundreds of fish and water birds were killed yesterday when about 1,000 gallons of petrol from a riverside oil terminal leaked into the River Don at Ousping, near Sheffield.

Man dies in fire

Mr Handel Evans, aged 73, died on Tuesday night in an attempt to save his pet cat when his home in Elgin Road, Pwll, Llanelli, South Wales, caught fire.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia 30p, Belgium 30p, Canada 30p, France 30p, Germany 30p, Greece 30p, Hong Kong 30p, India 30p, Italy 30p, Japan 30p, New Zealand 30p, Norway 30p, Portugal 30p, Spain 30p, Sweden 30p, Switzerland 30p, Taiwan 30p, Thailand 30p, Turkey 30p, USA 30p, West Germany 30p, Yugoslavia 30p.

600 schools must close to save money and standards, auditors say

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Hundreds of schools in England and Wales need to be closed by the end of the 1980s in line with falling pupil numbers, otherwise the quality of education will suffer and ratepayers will be footing an unnecessarily large bill.

The warning is in a report published today from the Audit Commission for Local Authorities, an independent body set up two years ago to improve local government economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The commission says that the price of doing nothing about non-teaching costs in secondary schools is unacceptably high.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CLOSING SURPLUS SCHOOLS

Number of schools	Annual savings (£m)	Annual savings (£m)
220	44	43
440	88	86
660	132	129
880	176	172
1,100	220	219

SECONDARY SCHOOL ROLLS 1981-1986

Year	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Potential surplus places on Jan 3	357	585	640	748	861	899
Taken out of use (cumulative)						
- actual	35	70	120	122	222	357
- planned	40	83	150	222	292	357

'Homework concept out of date'

By Our Education Correspondent

The amount of homework given to pupils and the time taken by conscientious pupils to do it can lead to excessive tiredness, according to the National Association of Head Teachers.

In a document published today the association, which has 20,500 members, adds that homework is in part something handed down from public and grammar schools to all schools, as a way of "keeping children occupied" or "passing the time", albeit usefully.

On the plus side, it argues that homework can be a good way of reinforcing what has been learnt in school, and that it is important for young people to learn to work on their own.

Many avoid doing homework, or do it on buses, at breakfast or while watching television.

Many resent having so much homework at secondary age.

Comprehensive schools are criticized by school inspectors for failing to encourage pupils to talk, to develop arguments and articulate ideas. The criticism comes in their review of the reports they have written on schools between January 1983 and May 1984.

Primary schools give children a limited range of written work, concentrate too much on computation at the expense of practical work in mathematics and provide little experimental work in science, according to the review.

Campaign for clarity clearly succeeding

By Michael Hornell

Written English is getting plainer, notwithstanding the smoky obfuscations which continue to darken the corridors of form-riddled bureaucratic life as we know it in Britain.

This is the opinion of Mr John Ward, a National Consumer Council executive, who announced yesterday the Plain English Campaign's annual awards.

The campaign's five-year operation to remove gobbledegook from the language appears to be succeeding, for not only were the Golden Bull body-prize winners yesterday less amusing than usual but among the six recipients of awards for plain English were two government ministers representing departments once the Anit Sallies of obfuscation hunters.

Miss Julie Walters, the actress, needed some of the skills of an "educated Rita" in deciphering the plain from the obscure when she presented the awards at the Waldorf Hotel, London.

Mr Timothy Reinton, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, received his plain English award on behalf of the Central Office of Information for an illuminating leaflet to holidaymakers about the uses of British consuls.

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, received his for the Manpower Services Commission's helpful guide on sponsored training. It was, he said, a far cry from his early days as a minister, when civil servants presented him with the following briefing:

"There is no need to amend section 4A of the 1964 Act to supply the four new subsections introduced by subsection 2 of the Bill to replace subsection 2 of section 7 because subsection 4 of section 4A already refers back to subsection 2-6 of section 7 However... etc."



Plainly pleased: Miss Julie Walters preparing to release a cloud of "hot-air" balloons before the awards ceremony.

Teacher tells court he never supplied drugs to his pupils

A schoolteacher accused of selling drugs to teenagers told a crown court jury yesterday that he had sometimes smoked "a joint" of cannabis in a park during school lunchbreaks, but had never taken drugs on school premises.

Richard Catherwood, aged 39, added: "I have never supplied a schoolchild under my care or in my control with any drugs."

Mr Catherwood, who has been suspended from his job as an inner London Education Authority supply teacher since his arrest in June, was giving evidence at Inner London Crown Court on the third day of his trial.

Yesterday Mr Catherwood, of Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, south London, was cleared of one of the charges against him, supplying cannabis resin, after Judge Suzanne Norwood instructed the jury that there was insufficient evidence.

He had denied a further six charges, including supplying and offering to supply LSD, cocaine and cannabis resin, and possessing controlled drugs with intent to supply.

He has pleaded guilty to three charges of supplying cannabis resin and unlawfully possessing LSD and cannabis. The offences are alleged to have taken place between January 1983 and June 1984.

The court has been told that Lee Sawyer, aged 16, fell to his death from a high-rise block of flats in East Dulwich and was found to have taken LSD before the incident. It has been alleged that Mr Catherwood supplied the drug he had taken.

Mr Catherwood told the jury yesterday that he had been educated at university in Belfast. He had three A levels and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

He had been a supply teacher of art in the south London Borough of Southwark from 1979 until his arrest.

Mr Catherwood said: "I am making no secret of the fact that I am a regular, and have been since I was 20 or 21, user of cannabis and have used on many occasions LSD. Cocaine is something I have tried."

He said that he had been before various courts on five occasions for drugs offences.

During his early years he had been "wandering as a busker" but later settled down to a teaching career.

Mr Catherwood denied allegations by two boys who gave evidence that it was LSD supplied by him that caused Lee Sawyer's death.

"Since they supplied acid (LSD) on their own admission to Lee Sawyer I can see them trying to put it on someone else," he said.

Mr Catherwood said that when he heard that the boy had plunged from a balcony he was shocked. He had never heard of anyone jumping from a high place after taking LSD.

The hearing continues today.

Apology over cot death

A London coroner yesterday criticized the view that most cot death babies were killed by their parents, and apologized to a young mother for holding an inquest into the death of her baby daughter.

Joanna Fernandes, aged four months, died in her mother's bed after an early morning feed. Mrs Frances Fernandes, of Old Kent Road, south-east London, told the court in Southwark that she had put Joanna in bed. When she woke up the baby was dead.

Dr Gordon Davies, the coroner, said that the vast majority of cot death babies were well looked after by loving parents.

He recorded a verdict of natural causes due to sudden infant death syndrome.

Thatcher rejects tax on new housing

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave an assurance yesterday to home owners and house builders that mortgage interest relief would continue and that the Government would not introduce value-added tax on new housing.

The Prime Minister speaking at the National House-Builders Council's annual lunch in London, answered fears that mortgage relief might be reduced or abolished by saying that as long as she was Prime Minister or a member of the Conservative Government it would continue.

As for tax on new housing, she assured her audience that the Government had no plans to introduce it, as suggested by the EEC, and added: "We are resisting vigorously the commission's attack on zero-rating."

He also shared the concern of the builders for more land for building.

The lunch was celebrating the fact that owner-occupation in the United Kingdom had reached 60 per cent. It is estimated at 63 per cent, and the Housing Research Foundation has suggested that home ownership in England could approach 80 per cent by the end of the century.

Mrs Thatcher said that a house was most people's biggest asset, but added that it was more than that. "It is a symbol of security."

Garages to get fairer AA symbols

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Automobile Association is dropping its sparrow symbols in the new year. They have been used since 1968 to denote AA approved garages.

The sparrows, which range from one to three, awarded this year to 4,300 garages, are being misinterpreted by motorists as symbols of workmanship rather than the intended meaning of facilities offered.

This has resulted in an unfair reflection on the smaller, efficient garages, the AA said. Instead of sparrows, a standard "AA Approved" sign will be displayed outside garages.

Teacher charged with arson

Duncan McAndrew, aged 37, a teacher, was remanded in custody yesterday by magistrates at Colchester, Essex, charged with arson at Eight Ash Green Primary School, near Colchester.

Det. Inspector Jeff Murray said that McAndrew, of Woodford End, Layer-de-la-Haye, was arrested on Tuesday morning hours after firemen put out a blaze which broke out while the headmaster, Mr John Hopkins, was holding a parent-teacher meeting.

MP has second chest operation

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, has undergone a second operation on a chest infection at Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Mr McNair-Wilson, aged 53, was operated on a week ago for a chest abscess caused by secondary infection during kidney failure earlier this year.

Court bans peer

The Earl of Shaftesbury, aged 46, of St Giles, Wimborne, Dorset, was fined £200 and banned from driving for 15 months at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, after he admitted driving his car having drunk excess alcohol.

Paper closes

The Evening Post and Chronicle newspaper in Wigan was published for the last time yesterday, but it was late reaching the streets because of industrial action by print workers. The paper lost about £300,000 this year.

Speed offence

Lon Macari, the manager of Swindon Town Football Club, was fined £30 and banned from driving for a week yesterday after being convicted of driving on the M5 at 101 mph. The ban was lifted pending an appeal.

Novelist 'killed old blind woman who wanted to die'

A children's novelist quietly killed a blind and lonely woman, aged 83, who wanted to commit suicide, the Central Criminal Court heard yesterday.

Mrs Helen Hough, aged 59, provided her with certain tablets and placed a plastic bag over the woman's head when she did not die after several hours. Mr Roy Amiot, for the prosecution, said.

Mrs Hough allegedly told police: "I was tempted to leave her, hoping she would die. I waited about two hours but she was still breathing, although deeply unconscious, and finally picked up this wretched plastic bag and put it over her head and held her hand."

She allegedly said, the woman's breathing became distressed and she finally died.

The dead woman, Miss Anna Johnson Harding, of Fitzroy Road, Primrose Hill, had decided to commit suicide by a scheme suggested by End, the voluntary euthanasia society.



Mrs Helen Hough yesterday told the court she had killed a blind woman who wanted to die.

Mrs Hough, off Ivor Street, Regent's Park, pleaded not guilty to the murder of Mrs Harding on November 4 last year.

The trial continues today.

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To: National Savings Bank (Dept. DDI), Glasgow G58 1SB. 72

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(Essential for children under 7 years)

ADDRESS: (in full)

AMOUNT DEPOSITED: POUNDS PENCE

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

USUAL SIGNATURE: (If child under 7, signature of person opening account)

If you hold any other NSB Account(s), please quote account number(s):

.....

Commons inquiry sheds doubt on Britain's legal claim to Falklands

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain's legal claim to the Falklands, which is at the heart of the centuries-old dispute with Argentina and led to war two years ago, is cast into doubt by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee in a report published yesterday.

After inquiries into the two rival sovereignty claims, the all-party group of MPs says: "The historical and legal evidence demonstrates such areas of uncertainty that we are unable to reach a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of the historical claims of either country."

But the committee, whose Falklands investigation has taken two years, emphasizes that much of the historical argument has been rendered less relevant by Argentina's "illegal resort to arms".

Without referring directly to Fortress Falklands, the MPs say the cost of defending the islands, £684 million this year and £552 million next year, will remain a substantial drain on the defence budget while the present policy continues, allowing for the savings brought about by the airport at Mount Pleasant.

"In broad terms it is costing us about one thousand times as much to defend each inhabitant of the Falklands as it costs us to defend each inhabitant of the UK."

Britain's unqualified refusal

since the conflict to discuss the sovereignty of the Falklands "undoubtedly" makes progress on issues such as bilateral relations more difficult. But, after a disagreement in the committee, the report says in the present situation "this policy is no doubt prudent".

Labour MPs wanted to describe such an attitude as "understandable" but were voted down by the Conservative majority.

The attitude of the Argentine democratic government under President Alfonsín towards negotiations on sovereignty is essentially no different to that of its predecessors, the MPs say.

"Such negotiations once begun, must lead eventually and inevitably to the relinquishment of the United Kingdom's claim to end administration of the Falklands."

Because questions of principle and national honour are at stake and feelings in Argentina, Britain and the Falklands are so intense, "the prospects for an early settlement of the sovereignty dispute itself are remote."

"All our evidence, has, in fact, reinforced the wisdom of the general approach now being adopted by HM Government, that progress should be made towards re-establishing practical and sensible arrangements for

relations between the two countries."

The absence of normal diplomatic and commercial relations are not in the best interests of either country and will have to be rectified before long, the MPs say.

"Some kind of accommodation with Argentina is not only inevitable, in view of the cost of the present policy to the UK, but also desirable if the Falklands are to have any prospect of long-term economic prosperity and the political stability."

Although the committee says that Britain should not agree to the inclusion of the sovereignty issue in talks with Argentina "in the immediate future" it should be willing to discuss how progress can be made to try to find a negotiated settlement as requested by the United Nations.

The MPs recommend that Britain should announce it will lift the Falklands protection zone once Argentina formally declares an end to hostilities; undertakes progressively to reduce the size of the army, air force and navy presence in and around the islands; and announces publicly the non-sovereignty issues it is prepared to discuss with Britain.

Special Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Falkland Islands, volume 1, Command 268-1 (Stationery Office £5.55).



Crime crackdown: A Mafia suspect chained to a policeman arriving at Turin airport. Judges in the city have issued 380 arrest warrants on Mafia-related charges.

Mafia informers live in fear

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The increasingly successful Italian onslaught on the higher echelons of the Mafia has brought in its wake the problem of how to protect relatives of Mafia criminals who confess.

A group of investigators in Palermo responsible for some of the most dramatic arrests in recent weeks has sent an appeal to President Pertini and to the Government asking for adequate means of protecting "repentant" criminals and their families.

Their case has authoritative backing from no less "repentant" a criminal than Tommaso Buscetta, the first of the great figures in the Sicilian Mafia's history to offer testimony. His brother-in-law was murdered on Friday and he wrote to one of the Palermo judges who signed the appeal to the President, expressing his disappointment that protection for members of his family had proved inadequate.

Naturally, the hope is strong that others will

continue to follow his example. That this hope is reasonable is shown by another huge series of arrests carried out on Tuesday in Catania, Rome, Turin and elsewhere on the instructions of Turin magistrates investigating the Mafia. They are known to have been helped by the confession of Salvatore Parisi, aged 30, a murderer from Catania who was arrested in Turin in September.

MADRID: For the first time, the Spanish Supreme Court has ordered one of its own members, and a judge of a lower court, to stand trial, (Harry Debelius writes).

The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that there was reasonable grounds for suspicion of criminal action by Justice Jaime Rodriguez Hernandez and Judge Ricardo Varoa Cobos, in connection with the unexpected release of a member of the Mafia. The alleged offence was prevarication, specifically of deliberately perverting a miscarriage of justice.

Moscow sends top man to mend fences in Peking

Peking (Reuters) - The Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the highest-ranking Kremlin leader to visit China in 15 years, will arrive in Peking on December 21, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The trip replaces a visit planned for last May which Mr Arkhipov cancelled abruptly after President Reagan's China tour and renewed fighting on the Sino-Vietnamese border. It reflects a gradual improvement in relations between the estranged Communist giants.

Asian and Western diplomats said Moscow and Peking hoped to conclude a trade agreement for the period 1986-90 during Mr Arkhipov's visit.

The two sides have also identified about 30 factories where Soviet technicians would help to modernize plant installed during the period of Sino-Soviet friendship in the 1950s.

The Chinese Communist Party chairman, Mr Hu Yaobang said last month the two countries were considering establishing

some joint committees to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation.

The neighbours, which fell out over ideological differences in the late 1950s, completed a fifth round of talks on normalizing relations in October and agreed they both wanted to expand economic, trade, scientific, technological, cultural and sporting links. But political relations remain blocked.

Peking demands a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, reductions in Soviet forces along the Chinese border and an end to the Kremlin's support for Vietnam's presence in Cambodia as preconditions for better political ties.

Moscow accuses Peking of deviating from the true path of socialism, and says China is making unreasonable demands and is not really interested in improved relations.

Mr Arkhipov is likely to find Chinese leaders in an ebullient mood. His trip will follow closely Mrs Thatcher's visit when she will sign an agreement on handing back Hong Kong.

Talks with Tokyo too

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan and the Soviet Union opened three days of economic cooperation talks yesterday, the first since 1979, and chief delegates called for improved economic ties.

The Soviet Vice-Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Vladimir Sushkov, heading a 70-member delegation, told the opening

session of the ninth meeting of the Japan-Soviet economic cooperation committee that both sides should try to improve relations.

The annual committee meetings were suspended in 1979 after Moscow's military intervention in Afghanistan.

The Singapore election

Opposition puts up 48 candidates

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

The opposition facing Mr Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party in Singapore's election next week was revealed yesterday when eight rival parties nominated a total of 48 candidates to stand against the PAP.

The close of nominations, which included three independents, left the PAP unopposed in 30 constituencies in an enlarged parliament of 79 seats, and most party officials appear confident that on December 22 it will secure a fifth successive electoral clean sweep.

Nevertheless, the election will be watched for any sign that voters - and in particular the young - are disgruntled with the PAP's authoritarian style of government. If, as some knowledgeable sources are suggesting, the PAP lost two or perhaps even three seats, it would represent a significant rebuff for controversial social policies raised by Mr Lee recently.

To the fore in yesterday's nomination process was the Workers' Party, led by the island's only opposition MP Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, which will be putting up 15 candidates.

The Anson seat, which Mr Jeyaretnam won at a by-election in 1981 to break what had in effect become one-party rule for

13 years, will be a crucial barometer of opinion. The PAP has gone all-out to regain the seat.

At yesterday's ceremony, supporters cheered their candidate, Mr Ng Pock Too, a parliamentary secretary to Mr Lee, and chanted "PAP for Anson".

Mr Jeyaretnam apart, the odds are heavily against the opposition's efforts to dent the PAP's stranglehold on parliament. Only 10 days have been allowed for campaigning and the PAP's opponents lack leadership, money and manpower.

The one thing they share is the conviction that the PAP's tentacles intrude into the life of all citizens and must be cut back. One WP slogan is "Wake up to your freedom, it's time".

The other party whose performance will be closely monitored is the Singapore Democratic Party. The SDP is fielding only four candidates, but Mr Chiam See Tong, its secretary-general, is an articulate critic of government who observers believe might win a place.

Other parties fielding candidates include the Singapore United Front (13), the United People's Front (8) and the Barisan Socialis (4).

East Germans will fast to aid asylum plea

Bonn-Some 73 East Germans still seeking asylum in the West German embassy in Prague plan to start a hunger strike tomorrow to support their demand to emigrate before Christmas, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper said yesterday (Michael Binyon writes).

The refugees, who have been in the embassy almost two months, have written to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to appeal for help.

Bild, however, has quoted Herr Wolfgang Vogel, the East German lawyer who negotiates on the issue, as saying that no one should hope for any other solution at Christmas than a return to East Germany.

East Berlin has insisted that no-one else who flees into a western embassy will be allowed to leave directly for the west.

Swiss rethink TV screening of 'Emmanuelle'

Geneva (AP) - The Swiss French-language television network will decide this week whether to go ahead with its controversial decision to broadcast the sexually-explicit film Emmanuelle on New Year's Eve, its programme director said yesterday.

Mr Jean Dumur said a survey in the weekly magazine L'Illustré showed that 72 per cent of the 500 French-language viewers polled were not shocked by the idea of seeing the film on television.

The 10-year-old French production, starring the Dutch actress Sylvia Kristel in love-making scenes with men and women, is scheduled to be shown at 2.15am on January 1 as part of an all-night film programme.

Kohl dismisses Soviet slur on war ceremony

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

West Germany has dismissed Soviet attacks on Bonn's plans for a day of prayer to commemorate the end of the Second World War as fatuous propaganda, expressing hope that the Western allies will take a firm stand against Soviet attempts to exploit the occasion.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has ruled out any "noisy ceremonies" to mark the 40th anniversary of Germany's capitulation, and called instead for an ecumenical service in Cologne Cathedral to commemorate the war dead of all nations.

On Tuesday, Tass asked in an acid commentary for whom the prayers would be held. "For SS hangmen, whose hands were crimson with the blood of European nations, for war criminals who brought millions of men, women and children suffering misery and torture?"

Herr Peter Boenisch, the government spokesman, said he had never read anything so stupid as Tass. It was clear

someone wanted to express his hatred of Germans.

Bonn is now pondering a proposed state visit here by President Reagan on May 2-4, immediately after the economic summit and before the anniversary of VE Day. Most people think a proposed visit by the President, together with Herr Kohl, to Dachau concentration camp would be inappropriate and look like domestic election-calling. The Chancellor's office has also firmly ruled out any meeting on May 8 between President Reagan, President Mitterrand and Mrs Thatcher.

The French President is understood to have let Bonn know that he is against taking part in any further ceremonies like the Normandy celebrations. Newspapers here gave a warm welcome yesterday to the remarks by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in West Berlin that Britain intended vigorously to discharge its responsibilities for the defence of West Berlin's freedom.

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MP takes legal action to force Sharon back from New York court

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

With Mr Ariel Sharon's \$50 million libel suit against *Time* magazine entering its second month, a political storm is brewing in Israel about the prolonged absence of the new Minister for Trade and Industry and the mounting cost of financing his legal battle in New York.

The controversial hearing arises out of 18 words in an article printed on February 21, 1983, concerning the report of the Kahan Commission into the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Beirut camps of Sabra and Chatila.

In an unprecedented legal move yesterday, the opposition Citizens' Rights Movement, which has three deputies in the Knesset, sought a High Court injunction to force Mr Sharon to return immediately or to take indefinite leave.

In his application for an injunction against the government, the Prime Minister and Mr Sharon, one Knesset member, Mr Mordechai Bar-On, also submitted that the minister

should himself be required to finance the costs of his visit and that of his staff, which are now being met by the Government.

Mr Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of the 1982 Lebanon invasion, has not been in Jerusalem since November 5, Mr Bar-On and other parliamentary critics claim that his absence is technically illegal, because he was granted Cabinet permission for only a two week absence.

Among those now calling for Mr Sharon's resignation is Mr Chaim Bar-Lev, Police Minister in the National Unity Government. He described as "absurd" the decision by the Exchequer to continue funding Mr Sharon's stay in the United States.

"Mr Sharon has claimed that the state of Israel is on trial, but he did not bother to ask the country whether it is interested in such a trial," Mr Bar-Lev said. "The trial is causing considerable damage to Israel on several fronts."

Criticism of Mr Sharon, a leading contender for the future

leadership of the right-wing Likud faction, has been heightened because his ministry is supposedly at the centre of efforts to solve Israel's inflationary crisis through a three-month freeze on wages and prices.

Senior trade ministry officials have complained that their entire travelling budget for the current fiscal year has been eaten up in New York.

In a bitterly worded leading article, the Tel Aviv daily *Ha'aretz* accused Mr Sharon of failing to return home after the two weeks it was granted to him by the Cabinet to deal with the trial and "matters pertaining to his ministry". It claimed that any businessman who had acted in a similar fashion would have been dismissed from his company.

In an Israel Radio interview from New York, Mr Sharon replied in characteristically blunt fashion, accusing the Labour Party headed by the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, of aiding Israel's enemies "as it had done in the past".

Changing times at the EEC

Thorn gloomy on future unity

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

A European Community of ten states, or 12 as it is due to become, cannot be managed by consensus, Mr Gaston Thorn told the European Parliament here in his farewell speech as Commission President yesterday.

Mr Thorn's view of the Community's future without a majority voting system is gloomy. The veto, he said, constituted a negation of the spirit of the treaty of Rome and the political end of European construction.

He worried about the ravages that would be caused by "the

pure accountant's approach" now that rules of control spending had been introduced. The idea should not be to build an association of states but a community of different people.

For millions of citizens, he argued, the Community would lose its purpose if the building of Europe were to be neglected for selfish reasons. This thinly-disguised reference to British insistence on spending controls showed that Mr Thorn is worried that Britain is undermining the future of the Community.

Speaking on the eve of a parliamentary vote likely to

reject the EEC budget for next year, he pleaded for the Community to decide positively that it should exist.

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Foreign Minister, was more positive in his final report on the six months of the Irish presidency.

He believed the Community was again on the move, citing negotiations to include Spain and Portugal and the agreement on spending control, but admitted that "the essential task of relaunching the Community remains uncompleted."

Greece counts on Italy for help

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece is counting on the Italians, who assume the rotating presidency of the European Community next month, to push through the plan for massive aid to help the poorer Mediterranean regions to cushion the competitive shock from the admission of Spain and Portugal.

Otherwise, the Greek leaders insist, they will block the Community's enlargement until this plan known as the "integrated Mediterranean programmes" (IMPs) is agreed, sealed and delivered.

Italy would, in fact, be the largest beneficiary under the Commission's original proposals, to the tune of 44.5 per cent of a total then estimated at 6.6 billion ECUs or £3,960 million.

Greece would be entitled to 38.4 per cent or £1.5 billion. The rest, 17 per cent, would go to France, which would eventually become a net contributor to the plan, hence its aloofness.

The officials in Athens blame Mrs Thatcher, in particular, and the other "Northern" Community members, except perhaps West Germany, for blocking these credits out of sheer hoody-mindedness.

Spanish and Portuguese vegetables, fruit, wines and olive oil are likely to give stiff competition to similar Greek products when the two Iberian countries

join the Community. The IMPs were devised originally to help the poorer areas in France and Italy and the whole of Greece to improve their economies and buttress them against the shock.

Under the original scheme, about two-thirds of the bulk of the grant of £1.5 billion would go to improve Greek agriculture, forestry and fisheries. One-third would help to create infrastructure, improve communications, promote tourism, train manpower and develop sources of energy.

Officials in Athens say the original sum of £1.5 billion over six years is negotiable, but they were shocked when the Community's 1985 budget included of 50 million ECUs (£30 million) for the first year of application, of which £11.4 million would be for Greece.

Greece now wants the Council of Ministers to respect the Fontainebleau summit's pledge and tackle seriously the proposals for the IMPs now before it, inserting generous sums where the blanks were left for the total cost of the programme, its duration, and its sources of financing.

"What we do not want," said a Greek official, "is that money from the Community's funds that Greece would have received anyway should simply be diverted and rechristened IMPs."

40-tonne lorry limit

Brussels. All lorries in the EEC - apart from Britain and Ireland - will be bound by a 40-tonne maximum weight limit from the end of 1986, transport ministers meeting in Brussels have agreed (Ian Murray writes).

The new limit means that some countries like Italy and Holland, will have to decrease the present maximum levels,

while other countries will have to increase theirs.

But it will not be until February 1987 that the question will be raised again about limits in Britain and Ireland and even then they will be able to veto any attempt to make them raise the present limit. The question then will be whether a target date can be set for the two countries to raise their limits.

The main offenders have already been "taxed" by the commission, by its refusal to forward advance payments totalling almost 550 million to countries in which it believes over-production is continuing.

Strict action confirmed on milk surplus

From Our Own Correspondent, Strasbourg

There is to be no reprieve for the EEC's surplus milk producers. The European Commission yesterday rejected a request from member states for a fifth delay in payments of the new super-levy on production in excess of the agreed quotas.

Community farm ministers on Tuesday asked the Commission for a further delay until March before making initial payments. France and Belgium both said they were still having trouble organizing administration to monitor the quotas.

But in Strasbourg yesterday the Commission decided, after the shortest of debates, to ignore the request. As it manages agricultural policy it has the last word on when the money should be paid, and it means to stick to its ruling that half of all money owed in a levy for over-production in the first six months of the quota system, must be paid by Saturday.

Just a month before it retires, the Commission feels it must get tough to ensure that the controversial system works. It has noted that production dropped by 3 per cent in its first six months, and that the fall over last year is now nearly 8 per cent.

The main offenders have already been "taxed" by the commission, by its refusal to forward advance payments totalling almost 550 million to countries in which it believes over-production is continuing.



Bhopal exodus: Smiles that hide fear on a crowded train as thousands yesterday fled the disaster city of Bhopal in India, spurred by rumours that attempts to make the Union Carbide chemical plant safe would release more killer gas.

White House battle for Meese's job

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

An ideological power battle is under way at the White House about the departure early next year of Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, to become Attorney General. It will leave a gap in the top echelons that is worrying conservatives close to President Reagan.

They are determined to keep their substantial influence on the White House, but a strong group of moderate Republicans, headed by Mr James Baker, the Chief of Staff, is pressing hard for an increased role.

Mr Reagan may not have decided definitely to appoint another Counselor, since the position was based principally on his longstanding personal friendship with Mr Meese. Few in the Administration are as close to the President, or have such ready access to the Oval Office.

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, United States ambassador to the United Nations, may want the job. Conservatives are supporting her strongly for a top White House post, but even if she became Counselor or a special presidential adviser, they would remain gloomy about the departure of the

powerful Mr Meese. Although he will retain substantial influence as a Cabinet member, conservatives fear that his departure will diminish their contact with the Oval Office.

His successor - however conservative - cannot possibly wield the same kind of influence. There are genuine fears that Mr Reagan's conservative agenda might be stalled.

In particular, Mr Meese's departure to the Justice Department would increase the leverage of Mr Baker, a moderate conservative whose staff has frequently been critical of the lack of political pragmatism of Mr Reagan. Any increase in his power would be regarded by conservatives as a defeat in the battle for ideological supremacy.

Mrs Kirkpatrick's decision to delay her departure from the United Nations may be related to the possibility of her taking over the job as Counselor. After a 30-minute meeting with Mr Reagan on Tuesday she said: "We talked a bit about the future and agreed to talk again some time after the inauguration (in January)."



● Shultz plea: Belgium was urged yesterday by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State (above, speaking on his arrival in Brussels), to deploy cruise missiles in March as planned. He received no assurance from the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens. Mr Shultz said the failure of Belgium and Holland to commit themselves to deployment harmed prospects for US-Soviet arms talks. "Of course it is harmful if undertakings are not adhered to," he said.

Gorbachov team of 30 for UK trip

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, second only to President Chernenko in the Soviet Communist Party hierarchy, will lead a delegation of 30 when he arrives on Saturday for a week's visit to Britain.

He comes as a guest of the British Inter-Parliamentary Union and visits to the Commons and leading British industries are included in his itinerary.

But interest throughout the West will be focused most intently on extensive talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher at Chequers on Sunday and with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Office on Monday.

Whitehall is clearly delighted by the prospect of seeing the man whom Kremlinologists tip as the most likely successor to

the septuagenarian Mr Chernenko.

Mr Gorbachov, who will be accompanied by his wife, Raisa, is arguably the most important Russian to come to Britain since Mr Kossygin arrived as Prime Minister in 1967, and certainly since the visit of Mr Andrey Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, seven years ago.

Rising star, page 14

I was sold to sex club, British girl tells court

Nice (AFP) - A young British hitch-hiker was raped, beaten, drugged and forced into prostitution for several weeks by two gangs of thugs on the French Riviera, one of which tried to sell her to a West German sex club, a court was told here yesterday.

The Assizes court for the Alpes-Maritimes Department is hearing murder charges against two of the men, Francois Tripodi and Serge Pastouret, accused of gunning down a third, Jacques Sneider, after he fell in love with the young woman and helped her escape.

The court heard that the woman, named only as Elizabeth H. from London, had gone camping in Spain with friends in June 1981, when she was 17. She then travelled as far as

Antibes, on the Côte d'Azur, on the way to see friends in Nice.

In her deposition - her lawyer said she was too frightened to appear personally in court - she said she was picked up by three men in a car who promised to put her up and find her a job, since she had no money.

She said after two or three days, however, they told her she must become a streetwalker, and beat her up to convince her.

However, she slipped away from one of her "protectors" and joined three other "very friendly" young men who found her a place to stay. But the trio quickly started beating her and put her back on the street.

In late 1981, she learned she had been sold to an "Eros Centre" in West Germany for 30,000 francs (about £2,600).

Kasparov opens record day with variation

Moscow (Reuters) - Gary Kasparov, playing white, yesterday began the 32nd game of his world chess title challenge against the champion, Anatoly Karpov, with an opening last used in the tenth game of their record competition.

Kasparov used his last time-out to postpone the game until yesterday, when he adopted his usual counter.

Kasparov chose a more ambitious seventh move in seeking control influence and forced the champion to consider a game variation not seen for several years.

Yesterday was the 94th day of play, surpassing the record set in 1978 when Karpov beat the Soviet defector, Viktor Korchnoi, 6-5. Karpov leads 5-0, and needs only one more victory to retain the title.

Three state bodies, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Special Investigations Team for Economy and Trade and the Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation were moving in to search through files and interrogate various people before deciding on prosecutions.

Zambian firms face big fraud inquiries

From Alfred Sayila, Lusaka

Financial scandals involving millions of kwacha continue to plague Zambia. In separate incidents, two state-owned financial houses are alleged to have swindled the public out of more than 6 million kwacha (£2.5 million) in the last 10 years.

Investigations and audits are under way at the Zambia National Provident Fund and Zambia National Commercial Bank.

Three state bodies, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Special Investigations Team for Economy and Trade and the Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation were moving in to search through files and interrogate various people before deciding on prosecutions.

Petrol bombs hit home of Soweto mayor

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Two petrol bombs were thrown through windows of the home of the mayor of Soweto early yesterday, less than 48 hours after his election. Mr Edward Kumene, aged 52, and his family were not hurt.

The attack follows the murder by gunmen last week of the leading candidate for mayor, Mr Edward Manyosi. After his election on Monday Mr Kumene said: "If death comes my way, I'll face it."

He won his council seat as a candidate for migrant workers in the sprawling black township, the home of more than two million blacks outside Johannesburg, and was appointed mayor in succession to Mr Ephraim Tshabala, a millionaire businessman.

Moi extends pardon to 'guilty' Njonjo

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Moi of Kenya announced yesterday that he had pardoned his former Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Mr Charles Njonjo, although a commission of inquiry had found him guilty of a number of serious offences.

In a speech marking the 21st anniversary of Kenya's independence, delivered at an open-air stadium here before a large crowd, President Moi did not detail the allegations against Mr Njonjo which the commission said had been proved.

According to the original terms of reference, they included involvement in the 1982 attempted coup here, and in the abortive attempt to overthrow the Government of the Seychelles late in 1981.

Mr Njonjo was suspended from the Cabinet early last year

Three killed in Beirut car bomb explosion

Beirut - At least three people were killed and seven were injured yesterday when a powerful car bomb exploded outside a Druse religious centre in west Beirut. (Our Correspondent writes).

Most of the victims were pedestrians or motorists who were outside the three-storey building. The bombing came on a third day of fighting between the Lebanese Army and Druse militiamen in the mountains overlooking Beirut.

Land lost under 1659 treaty

Agullana, Spain (Reuters) - The 600 people living here were confused and angry yesterday after Spain ceded 300 square metres of the town to France under the 1659 Treaty of the Pyrenees.

The only person directly affected is a geologist, Señor Juan Llano, who holds a small plot of land at Agullana but lives in Barcelona. The town will lose his £60 a year local tax payment.

Guerrilla camp is overrun

Bangkok (Reuters) - Vietnamese troops have overrun a Cambodian guerrilla base at Sroc Sam near the Thai border, Thai military sources said.

Fighting continued as guerrillas regrouped for counter-attacks along the 450-mile border.

Implant costs

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Mr William Schroeder will not have to pay any bills for his artificial heart implant, but Humana Inc, which is underwriting the experiment, is talking to his insurance company hoping to recoup some of the expenses incurred before the operation.

'Spy' trial

Ho Chi Minh City (AFP) - An espionage trial of about 20 Vietnamese accused of plotting to overthrow the Government opens here tomorrow, with the United States, China and Thailand all implicated, informed sources said.

Bombing charge

Islamabad (Reuters) - Pakistan yesterday accused Afghanistan of again bombing its territory, saying two jets had dropped four bombs and fired rockets at Peshawar Kotel, a village close to a guerrilla supply route into Afghanistan.

Nazi's jail plea

Rome (AP) - Herr Walter Reder, former Nazi major serving life in a military prison in Gaeta near Naples for killing more than 1,800 Italians in the Second World War, has sought the Pope's help to secure his release.

Poll violence

Delhi (Reuters) - An angry crowd stoned the Indian minister of state for commerce, Mr S. M. Krishna, and 20 political workers at an election meeting near Bangalore in southern Andhra Pradesh state, the Press Trust of India said.

Holiday truce

La Jota, El Salvador (Reuters) - Left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador said they would observe a truce for Christmas and New Year in their war against the Government.

Gunmen flee

Athens (A) - Mr Abdullah Yassin, aged 38, an attaché at the Syrian Embassy here, fired back at gunmen who attacked him at the seaside suburb of Kalamaki. The gunmen fled.

Absent Sindona

Milan (Reuters) - The Sicilian financier, Michele Sindona, in a telephone call from jail, has agreed to be tried in absentia on charges of fraud.

23 imprisoned

Ankara - Twenty-three Jehovah's Witnesses were jailed here on charges of "anti-secular activities".

Sinhalese learn how to grin and bear it

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

When launching the Civil Defence scheme to protect Sri Lanka against internal or external aggression, the Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, commented the example of the British in the Second World War to his own people.

That the message has gone home has been seen in the stoic calm with which the Sinhalese have endured a series of disasters.

When 10 bombs exploded in different parts of Colombo, killing seven people and wounding 17, the Sinhalese almost as if nothing had happened.

Attempts by the Tamil separatist rebels to blow up a pipeline near Colombo, and an attack on the tower of the state television service on the highest mountain in the central hills, also caused death and injuries, but concern was tempered by relief that no serious damage had been done.

Reagan envoy backs political solution

Delhi (Reuters) - General Vernon Walters, the United States special envoy, yesterday agreed with India that there could be no military solution to the Sri Lankan crisis, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

General Walters arrived in Delhi on Tuesday night after talks in Colombo on the guerrilla violence and ethnic unrest. He emphasized the need for an urgent political solution.

A week later Tamil rebels launched attacks on Sinhalese farmers at two prisoner rehabilitation schemes in the north-east, and then on two settlements of migrant Sinhalese fishermen, also in the north-east. Eighty men, women and children were killed in the attack on the two farms and 13 in the assault on the fishing villages.

President Jayewardene and the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulthammudi, have repeatedly emphasized that the aim of the Tamil rebels in the south into retaliatory action which would compel the Government to divert some troops in the north to restoring order in the south.

hour curfew as the funerals of those killed in the police station attack were held, and only three or four minor incidents took place.

A week later Tamil rebels launched attacks on Sinhalese farmers at two prisoner rehabilitation schemes in the north-east, and then on two settlements of migrant Sinhalese fishermen, also in the north-east. Eighty men, women and children were killed in the attack on the two farms and 13 in the assault on the fishing villages.

The attacks on the farms and fishing villages were followed immediately by the capture, kidnapping and possible killing of 12 Sinhalese workers at the government cement factory in

the north. Once again the Sinhalese in the south reacted with restraint.

The only blot on the Sinhalese record was in the north-western town of Mannar, where the Army went on the rampage after one soldier died in an explosion. For three days the Government tried to maintain that the Army had killed only 34 "terrorists" in a counter-attack, with the possibility of a few civilians being killed in the crossfire. However, in the face of eye-witness reports that about 100 civilians had been killed, Mr Athulthammudi decided on an official investigation.

In the improved climate of relations between the two communities in the south, Mr Athulthammudi has called on Tamils to show their solidarity with the Sinhalese by joining the vigilance committees that are being formed and making known their opposition to terrorism.

The all-party conference on the Tamil problem, which last met on September 30, is due to meet again today and tomorrow.

Problems for two European Socialist parties

Spain: Nato-stance puts González on spot

From Richard Wines, Madrid

Spain's Prime Minister, Felipe González, will mark today's opening of his Socialist Party's 30th conference with a strong defence of Spain's continued membership of Nato, even though he admits it is widely unpopular.

While the Prime Minister has shown that the Left can govern in Spain, in difficult times, the conference is expected to be a good guide to exactly how much wear and tear there has been among the socialist rank and file. Some unrest can be expected with 400,000 more people unemployed than when the Socialists came to office, and the policies of Señor Miguel Boyer, the Economics Minister, increasingly concentrating on public sector inefficiency and the need to give private business more profits.

Señor González's attempt to "sell Nato" while Spain's EEC membership is still in doubt worries delegates. But worker disenchantment with the Socialist record in office worries them even more.

Señor Nicholas Redondo, the socialist trade union leader who heads the Basque delegation, has threatened to bring to the fore labour unrest, which has led to more than a month of street violence over the Government's programme to restructure uncompetitive Spanish industries.

He has also promised to express the desire of many

Spanish socialists for neutralism and a distrust of all defence alliances. He advocates upholding the previous conference stand of October 1981 for the party to campaign actively in the promised Nato referendum for complete Spanish withdrawal.

Señor González announced his option of remaining in Nato but not going ahead with integration into its military structure to Euzkadi, well ahead of the conference.

Now, as party secretary general, he has to carry a majority of the 749 delegates with him to lay the basis for the referendum promised by February 1986.

On television earlier this week the Prime Minister said he was "completely aware" that Spain's position was against Nato. "If I find to decide about joining I do not believe I would have done so," he observed. "Of the previous government's 1982 decision, 'Now, when I think about maintaining the existing situation, I do so with my head, not with my heart'."

"We shall certainly be expecting a full explanation from Felipe of his changed attitude towards Nato," a veteran Socialist delegate told me. "But if his reasons are good I reckon the delegates will be influenced."

The outgoing executive maintained yesterday that 70 per

cent of the delegates would have endorsed Señor González's position by Sunday night when the conference ends.

The Socialists are a highly disciplined party and the significance of being in power for the first time in their more than 100-year history has been hampered home at preparatory party gatherings for months.

The outgoing executive's draft policy bears little resemblance to Señor González's actual decision. Even so it faces hundreds of proposed amendments.

As the conference will lay the basis for the party's programme at the next general election, the leadership is expected to make some concessions to a conference whose slogan is "Spain, a commitment to solidarity".

Outside the conference are the party's 162,000 rank and file, only 8 per cent of whom are under 25 and with everyday worries like rising costs and loss of jobs. In pre-government years membership reached almost 175,000.

That underlines the party's problem of keeping in step with society and how to retain as many as possible of the 10 million voters many boasting that supported it two years ago.

Señor González, in the coming days must address these people as well as the well-drilled party delegates.

Bush calls for swift justice from Iran

Washington (Reuters) - The United States yesterday demanded that Iran bring the men who killed two Americans and tortured others onboard a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner "swiftly and surely to justice."

"Let us condemn terrorism for the brutal cowardice that it is," Vice-President George Bush said at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington where he met the plane that brought home the bodies of the two murdered Americans.

"Let us resolve that civilized nations can and must resist terrorism and demand that governments have the decency to bring to justice terrorists, to bring them swiftly and surely to justice."

Mr. Harry Clark, the British pilot of the Kuwaiti airliner yesterday described "the final moments of one of the victims, Charles Hegna, aged 50, a US Government employee."

"I think they maybe had the intention of making him speak on the radio. I do know that he was praying at the time. Then he was removed from the flight deck and the next thing I heard was a shot."

Mr. Clark, who said he saw no evidence of Iranian complicity in the hijacking, said one of the airline staff was forced to act as torturer during the "the main torture session" last Friday night. But he did not think either of the murdered Americans had been tortured.

● KUWAIT: The Government here is exploring legal



Hijack grief: Mrs Edwina Hegna wiping away tears as she waits next to Vice-President Bush for the return of her husband's body at Edwards Air Force Base yesterday.

means to make Iran hand over the hijackers, an official source said. (AFP reports).

Officials were looking at the 1970 Hague Convention on hijacking, whose signatories include Kuwait and Iran, as a way of seeking extraditions, the source said. Iran reportedly has

said it will try the four hijackers.

● LONDON: Mrs Joyce Beeston, the wife of Mr Neil Beeston, the British flight engineer on the hijacked plane, flew to Kuwait from Heathrow yesterday with her son David to be reunited with her husband.

Mrs Beeston said: "It's the end of a nightmare for us."

● NICOSIA: Iranian authorities foiled a plot last Saturday to hijack an Iranian airliner on a domestic flight and arrested all the plotters, the official Iran news agency said yesterday (AP reports).

Two jolts needed to electrocute killer

Jackson, Georgia (AP) - Alpha Otis Stephens, convicted of murdering a man, apparently survived the first jolt in the electric chair yesterday, but the current was turned on again to execute him.

A prescribed two-minute jolt of 2,000 volts failed to kill Stephens, so the warden, Mr Ralph Kemp, ordered that the procedure be repeated, and the condemned man was pronounced dead at 12:37am local time at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Centre. He was the 20th person to be executed in the United States this year.

After the first charge, "he still had minor vital signs," a prison spokesman said. "When the physician noticed it, we hit him with a second jolt. It was standard procedure."

A troubling Stephens was strapped into the chair at 12:15am and shook his head when asked if he had a final statement. He bit his lips slightly and watched intently as he was prepared for execution.

At 12:18am, the first charge was applied. His head rolled slowly and his chest heaved. Two minutes later, the electricity was shut off, but he was still breathing.

The second charge began at 12:28am. Stephens' chest heaved again and his head again rolled.

The charge was cut off at 12:30am, and his body was motionless.

France: Pressure for economic boost

From Diana Geddes, Paris

With its rigorous economic policy just beginning to show positive results, the French Government seems determined to resist calls from its supporters to relax its measures and give the economy a boost ahead of the critical 1986 parliamentary elections.

The Socialist Party's left-wing has long advocated reflation, but it came as a surprise when M. André Laignel, party treasurer, and commonly identified with the mainstream, came out earlier this week in favour of what he termed a "selective" reflation to stop the Left lost further electoral support.

But M. Lionel Jospin, party first secretary, made the Government's position clear, by saying: "Let us do what we

services and those industrial prices still controlled by the Government are due to rise on average by only 3 per cent."

Two-thirds of industrial prices have now been freed from Government controls, and M. Pierre Bédégovoy, the Finance Minister, is talking about the possibility of freeing the remaining prices by the beginning of 1986.

One of the Government's greatest economic successes has been to break the traditional system of indexing wages to the rise in prices, with little trouble from the unions. Nearly all wage increases this year have been within the Government's 5 per cent guidelines, well below the inflation rate.

A side effect, however, has been that overall net incomes have hardly risen at all this year, after actually falling slightly in 1983. That has resulted in a virtual stagnation of consumer spending, hitting those firms with a largely domestic market.

Export industries are doing comparatively well, and industrial profits overall this year are up 25 per cent in cash terms, higher than for a long time. Industrial investment has also picked up, rising by an estimated 9 per cent in volume this year, the biggest increase for more than a decade.

The trade deficit, which reached a record 93 billion francs (£8 billion) two years ago, is expected to fall to about 30 billion francs this year, while the current account deficit is expected to fall below 10 billion francs. The Government hopes to bring the trade deficit into balance, or even produce a small surplus by the end of 1985.

But the foreign debt of 469 billion francs remains embarrassingly high, and independent forecasters feel France is unlikely to have sufficiently solid current account surplus to meet the increasing number of debt repayments which will fall due from 1986 onwards.

The Government aims for 1.3 per cent economic growth next year, up from an estimated 1.3 per cent this year, and 1 per cent last year. But the situation is still very delicate.



M. Bédégovoy: Hopes to end price controls

believe to be just and pursue a policy with a perspective beyond 1986."

The Government's economic policies will be the central topic at the Socialist Party's two-day national convention on the theme of "Modernization and social progress" to be held just outside Paris this weekend.

Inflation in France is expected to be down to 7 per cent by the end of this year, half its level when the Socialists came to power in 1981. But it is significantly above the Government's original target of 5 per cent, and still far too high in comparison with France's main trading partners.

The Government's target for next year is 4.5 per cent. Wages in the public sector are to be kept to that level, as are increases in dividends and public tariffs, while public

Chadian forces must act first, Mitterrand says

Bujumbura, Burundi (AP) - President Mitterrand said yesterday that if there were any French military operations in northern Chad in future, the Chadian forces of President Hissène Habré "would have to go in first."

Asked to elaborate at a press conference after a two-day French-African summit, the French President replied: "Habré is his own master. He is free to act in his country as he wishes. Wait and see."

M. Mitterrand declined to comment on a private discussion he had with President Habré earlier in the day and told a questioner: "The meeting was between us and I have nothing to say about it."

At the summit, several moderate African leaders were reported to have pressed President Mitterrand in vain for a commitment to give security guarantees to French-speaking Africa in addition to the six countries which already have mutual defence agreements with France. M. Mitterrand emphasized that Chad was not one of these countries, and he told the summit the French task force was sent to Chad last year in keeping with "a global concept of equilibrium in Africa."

Zia promises to step down if he loses poll

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

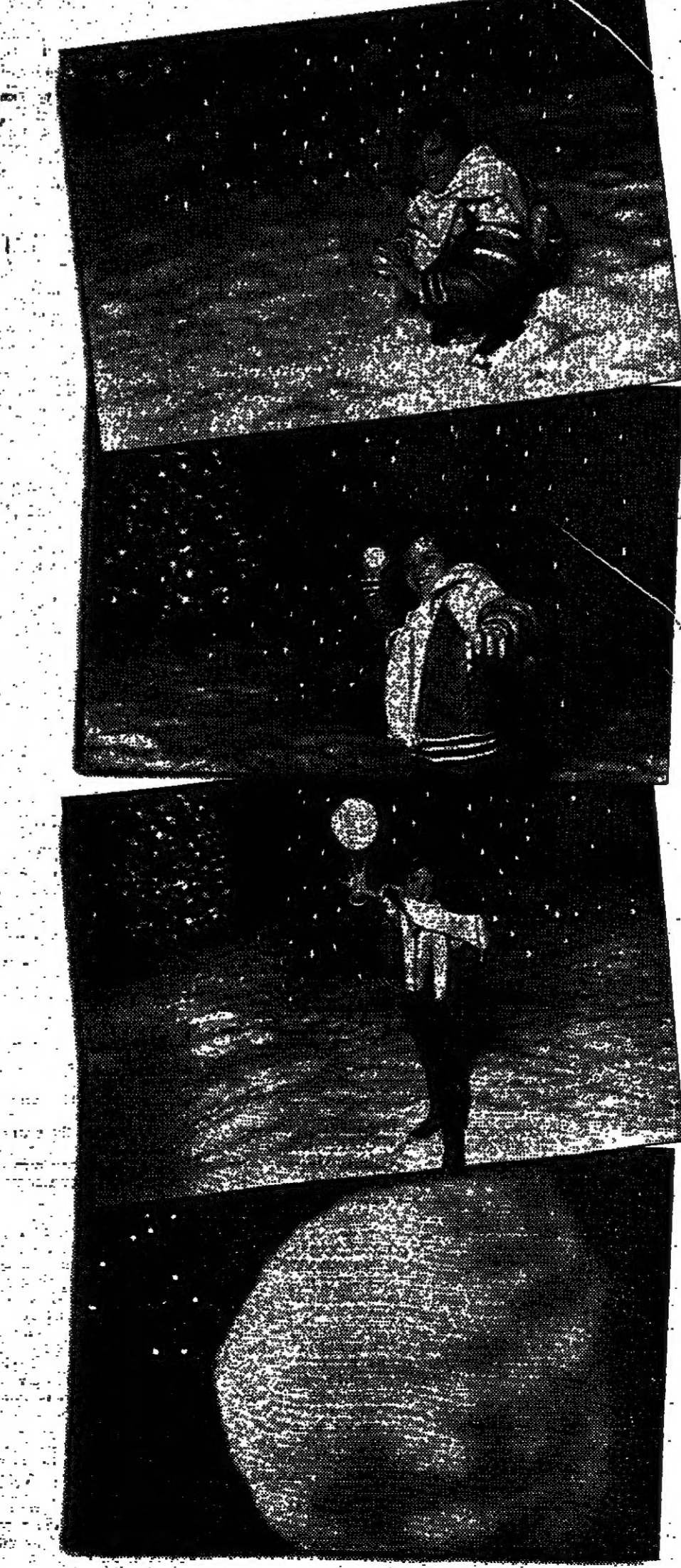
General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, said that if the people's verdict in the December 19 referendum went against him, "I shall step down after handing over power," according to a report of a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday night.

The referendum is on his Islamic reforms and programmes and seeks a mandate to rule Pakistan for the next five years.

The report on Tuesday's press conference does not say to whom he would hand over power. Earlier, however, Raja Zia ul-Haq, the Information Minister, had stated that if the referendum were lost, General Zia would continue in power until he was able to conduct parliamentary elections and nominate a prime minister, ideally by spring next year.

General Zia reportedly described the referendum as a religious obligation in conformity with Islam and a necessity for strengthening the country's stability. He declared that it was devised to put the way for a transfer of power.

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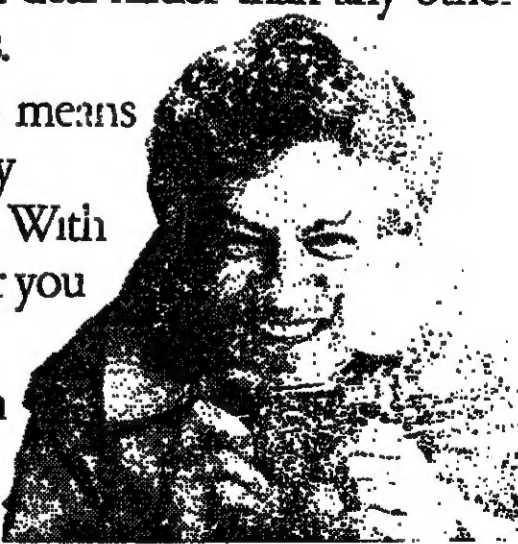
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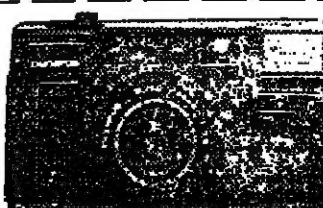
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BOOKS

The writer at war with love

Manufacturers of the product may be interested to know that D. H. Lawrence used Kolyons tooth-paste. He also thought German asparagus to be the best in the world (in this he was deceived, mistaking size for quality). He always used porters at railway stations, but he preferred not to have anything by way of a home help. When he did the housework in Sicily he washed the floor in the nude. These are some of the items of trivial interest to be gleaned from 730 pages of his letters - from that is, the latest volume of what will be a seven-volume complete edition.

It has to be said that a great deal of what is contained here is very short on abiding interest. Those who wish to follow in detail the full and complex story of Lawrence's relations with his publishers will find most of the evidence here assembled; but for most people it is enough to know that during the years covered by this volume Lawrence the novelist was finding it extremely hard to get into print, let alone make any money. In the year before the Great War he earned £450, but during 1917-18 he was making do on a quarter of this amount. At one point, such was the difficulty of finding publishers, he even tried to place *Women in Love* with Mills & Boon.

The sourness of his attitude to England and his literary establishment may be partly explained by this enraged sense of rejection: coupled with ill-health and persecution by the locals in Cornwall (on the apparent grounds that they thought he and his wife Freda were spies), the circumstances were enough to put a man in a rage. And yet the rage goes beyond the obvious and reasonable provocation. It undermines the sincerity of his friendships, and it exacerbates his enemies.

In the first part of this volume, we hear nothing but filth of Middleton Murry and Katherine Mansfield. In the central section there is a reprieve. Murry is editor of the *Athenaeum*, and his wife becomes recipient of some of Lawrence's best, most vivid letters. But then Murry rejects Lawrence's articles for his magazine, and the taps of fury are turned on full:

... what it amounts to is that you are a dirty little worm, and you take the life of a dirty little worm. But now let me tell you at last that I know it - not that it's anything new; and let it be plainly understood between you and me, that I consider you a dirty little worm; and so, deposit your dirty bit of reason where you like; at any rate we know what to expect.

James Fenton reviews the life and hard lines and jealousies of rising Lawrence

THE LETTERS OF D. H. LAWRENCE
Volume Three, 1916-21
Edited by James T. Boulton and Andrew Robertson
Cambridge, £25

So much for Murry. For Mansfield, the message was just a trifle more cruel: "I loathe you, you revolt me stewing in your consumption." He considered that her disease was her fault. Did he also think that his disease was his fault? We shall find out in volume 7. Almost the last reference to Katherine in this volume describes her as "doing her last gasp touch in order to impose on people". He seems to have envied her gifts as well as her disease.

In a more tangential case you can understand this enviousness. When he encounters Compton Mackenzie on Capri after the war, Lawrence is at first friendly, then satirical about the adulation Mackenzie gets from Francis Brett Young. Finally Capri is too small for all of them. Lawrence calls it a stew pot of semi-literary cats. He likes Mackenzie "as a man but not as an influence. I can't stand his island". Unmistakably here, Lawrence can't bear living in the shadow of a famous and rich novelist, when he is not yet rich or famous enough. He goes off to Sicily, where he hears that Brett Young has bought a house at the opposite end of Capri from Mackenzie. He imagines the two of them with the island between their teeth pulling like mad. But such competitiveness is clearly originally his.

Though you can understand the professional envy, it is more difficult to follow Lawrence in his rages against his friends. When Mary Cannon, one of the correspondents with whom Lawrence has always appeared to be on very friendly terms, decides to bob her hair and give herself the Twelve Pound Look, he goes off at the deep end:

She's cut her hair. One day it thundered and lightning and was very Enid, and it got on her nerves all alone in the studio, so she went out and

hobbed herself. Freda says it suits her, but ever since I can't bear the sight of her. It brings out all the pseudo-masculine street Arab aggressive selfish insolence which affects me nowadays, as a male, like somebody throwing black pepper in my eyes. I plainly hate her.

At first as is often the case with Lawrence you think he must be joking. But then it all gets too much:

Concetti, hideous, elderly, megalomaniac sexual conceit, that's what ails these elderly scavenging hitches. If I had one sense of fitness I'd spit a fat mouthful of lava at her.

By now you feel it really must have been quite a hair cut.

But this capacity for hatred was turned by Lawrence into the motor power of a philosophy. On more than one occasion he shows that he doubts the possibility of friendship for him, and in the last letter of the volume he turns his scorn against love itself:

Why is everybody always caring so hard about somebody else? Why not leave off in shorts, why not have done with Jesus and his love and have a shot at conscious proud power. Why not soldiers, instead of lovers? Why not laugh, and spit in the eye of love. Really, why not laugh? As for the absolute I have no absolute but myself. And as for vision - two a penny, three a penny, mine go cheap. Kick the posterior of creeping love, and laugh when it winces. Pah, it is a disease love... give me howdah Mars, and a free flight.

This is a most striking note on which to end a volume that began with Lawrence hoping for the Great War and wanting nothing to do with it. It is impossible though for a man in his early thirties to ignore the fact that his country is at war and that men of his age are dying in such numbers. Lawrence's own attitude, which was neither pacifist nor in any sense articulate, amounted to mere egotism: the war was getting in his way. He could not believe that America would become involved. It would be a catastrophe if he did. And the reason why it would be a catastrophe is quite simply that Lawrence wanted to go to America to live.

Every time he is called for a medical examination he goes into a paroxysm of misery, but it is only in the last weeks of the war that he is classified as fit for "secondary work". In a way the war has rejected him. He could not have been a part of it if he had wanted to, and his knowledge is most galling to him. He had failed to kill - and if he had failed as a killer, how could he succeed as a lover?



Classic prophetess, and weightlessness

FICTION

Nicholas Shakespeare

CASSANDRA
By Crista Wolf
Viking, £10.95

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH
By Douglas Adams
Pan, £6.95

LAUGHING PIG AND OTHER STORIES
By Peter Regent
Robinson, £7.95

It's often depressing to discover the stuff of which dreams are made. A story goes that Yeats took some of the images for his *Byzantium* from the frieze around Stockholm's town hall when he went to collect his Nobel Prize. Another little beginning with a big end was Keats's Grecian urn, according to one version - a species of chamberpot - with vulgar bulges and bumps. The short novel *Cassandra* by the East German writer Crista Wolf, is just a further example of the gap between an artist's inspiration and his art.

It is the hour of Cassandra's death. While her Greek captives drink in the citadel, this daughter of the King of Troy looks back on her life - from the moment Apollo spat in her mouth the gift of prophecy, and the catch that no one would believe her. She remembers how, limps twitching, lips foaming, throat gurgling, she broadcast not the usual weather forecasts but unconventional bulletins: that "no one can win a war waged for a phantom" (Helen having scarpered with the King of Egypt), and that Troy would fall. She recalls the war, how, before her eyes "Achilles the brute" strangled one brother - Troilus - and dragged another - Hector - round the fortress till he became a chunk of meat. And she brings reluctantly to mind the "voluptuousness" of self-destruction - the night her sister Polyxena walked along the city wall and bared her breasts to Achilles, and how Achilles drooped. Finally, having refused to flee with Aeneas, the sole man she ever loved, Cassandra faces her own destruction.

Cassandra is a powerful recreation of classical myth by a modern master. She is believable, alive, and shuddering with the author's obsession with her. What makes the reader shudder are four essays which follow, explaining this obsession - a diary, a letter and the two-part record of a Greek holiday. With the same mad energy as Schliemann proved, against popular thought, that Troy existed, so Crista Wolf tries to show how *Cassandra*, in her capacity as seer (normally a man's job), was "the first professional working woman in literature".

On a trip to Greece in 1980, Wolf can't see the modern world for the ancient. She drinks retinas and imagines banquets. She stands in the ruins where Cassandra stood, and beams her up from the underworld. She even meets Helen, not of Troy but of Columbus, Ohio - a girl

anxious to prove "women called the tune in Crete and that the Minoans were better for it". And all the time Wolf relentlessly implies she is herself an incarnation of her heroine, shrieking about the arms race and much else to deaf ears. The fiction distilled from this is worth reading. It's just sad the author prefers the course of her obsession to its fruit: what went into her waste-paper basket to what was saved from it.

Just the idea of Douglas Adams's waste-paper-basket is enough to make one foam and gurgle. The original inspiration for his *Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* was a night spent gazing drunkenly at the stars from a camp site in Innsbruck. The inspiration, by the time of this "fourth book in the Hitch-hiker trilogy" (sic), is beginning to wear off. In fact *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish* is a novel not so much space-lagged as so light you have to hold it down.

Adams's effects come from piling the values of the universe against those of the supermarket, and he has some good lines. However, bored by his narrative he tends to thrive on red herrings. The result is an absence of gravity and a work in which bits and pieces of different sketches orbit round a non-existent plot. As the last line says: "There was a point to this story but it has temporarily escaped the chronicler's mind".

Peter Regent's *Laughing Pig and Other Stories* is a light and airy collection about the attempts of clumsy voyeurs to enter a sensual world. A clergyman on holiday in Greece is seduced by a girl who turns out to be an ancient goddess. A man addicted to strip-shows finds himself one lunchtime ogling his own daughter. When Regent has his eye on Dahl, he gives his stories such violent twists, they lose their heads. When he keeps his own, he can be both acute and deft.

Yet more shrieks and floods

Patrick Garland

THE HOUSE OF MITFORD
By Jonathan Guinness
Hutchinson, £12.95

As early as the first book of *Mosses*, Westman Auden assures us, it was man's first impulse, upon confronting an unexpected animal or plant, to give it a name: the characteristic of the seven Mitford children would be to give it a nick-name - especially a member of the family. Nick-names abound throughout Jonathan Guinness's, and his daughter Catherine's book; and the element of wild mockery, alternately admiring and deriding, pervades the saga of a family who still persist in arousing our enthusiasm and reproach. This is the latest in the collection of Mitfordiana which Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire, and youngest daughter, calls "the Industry" with the same nonchalance that she refers to her great house, Chatsworth, as "the Dump".

A family friend noted the seven Mitfords were forever breaking out into shouts of laughter, or breaking down in floods of tears, and amid the shouts and floods, often initiated by Nancy, a profusion of breathless nicknames emerge with the imaginative precision of Captain Gronow's memoirs, or the *Drones Club*. His brothers and sisters called the second Lord Redesdale *The Old Ape*, his children called him *The Poor Old Male*, *Forgie* and *Farvie*; his wife, *The Poor Old Female*, and *Muv*; Nancy was *Blob*, *Nose*, *Octopus*, *Untruth*, and *The Old French Lady*; Pamela was *Woman*, or *Woomling*; the only son, Tom, *Tud* or *Tuddamy*; Diana, an unlikely Aunt Honks; Unity, a predictable Valkyrie (even in pre-Nazi days); Jessica was the attractive *Decca* or *Little D*; Deborah, *Debo*, or *Stubby*; or *The Nine-Year-Old*, supposedly, and unconvincingly, referring to her mental age; and there were countless others from the benign *Old Tollgate*, for Nancy's first husband, Peter Ronald, to *Venus in Zn* for the less than benign Hermann Goering.

Jonathan Guinness, eldest of the two sons of Diana Mitford, by her first husband the poet,

Bryan Guinness, has set the glamorous Mitford Girls (in John Benjamin's catch phrase of the thirties) and their easily overlooked brother, Tom, within the context of the previous generations. To achieve a historical perspective Mr Guinness spends a couple of hundred pages of relatively flat family history devoted to the maternal and paternal grandfathers, and the Redesdales emerge as surprisingly recent aristocrats despite their ancient-sounding name. Both Grandfathers betrayed hints of oddity about hygiene, house-building, diet, children, and the medical profession, which emerge with such bravura in grand-daughter Nancy's novels, and a great deal of Uncle Matthew's idiosyncrasy can be seen in the behaviour of David Bertram Ogilvy Mitford, the second Lord.

He was the one who, among other furiously held convictions, disputed the right of women to enter the House of Lords, because they might monopolize the only lavatory; and who believed that to abolish the Upper House would undermine "the very foundations of Christianity". The truth is, the six sisters - one has to leave out Tom, the enigmatic brother, who was killed in Burma in the last year of the war - for all their snobbery, affectation, and silliness, their teasing, unrepentant brightness, and even the unmissable "Mitford voice", described as "a sort of sagging" - are outstanding and extraordinary in almost every way. They fall generously into the category of people who, had they not existed, could not have provoked invention. Mr Guinness is right to say, Nancy's light fiction apart, the sisters' own writings are devoted largely to point-making and axe-grinding.

Jonathan Guinness, eldest of the two sons of Diana Mitford, by her first husband the poet,

Chase my chasuble, alb and orphreys

Roy Strong

A HISTORY OF ECCLESIASTICAL DRESS
By Janet Mayo
Batsford, £20

It is true to say that passions are still aroused by clerical dress; although those halcyon days when one used to get a *frisson* in tracking down Anglican High Mass with the celebrant in a fiddle-backed chasuble are gone for ever. The sight of vestments at the altar can still move a congregation to murmur if not revolt. One wonders what their reaction would have been to the Earl Bishop of Bristol in purple with diamond knee and shoe buckles - and a hat of the Volunteers on his head parading around Rome at the turn of the eighteenth century.

Janet Mayo's *A History of Ecclesiastical Dress* is a useful tour of this subject. It is a bit like one of those packages which offer the traveller five countries in seven days, because here we hurdle through nearly 2,000 years of Christianity in just under 200 pages. Admittedly she opts out of the Church Universal, or rather its western branch, at the sixth century and settles on the British Isles or

rather England, for Scotland and Wales barely figure.

Nothing is more maddening in histories of dress than verbal descriptions of articles of clothing minus illustration. This book could have been so much better if it had omitted some of its half-tone blocks, many of which are from continental sources anyway, and presented a set of diagrams and patterns for each period and garment. The glossary does not make up for this lack and in any case it is woefully lacking in references.

Although medieval *opus anglicanum* is a well ploughed field, the revival of ecclesiastical embroidery, prompted by the ritualist movement in the last

century is little explored and certainly deserved serious study. These items were designed by figures of the stature of William Morris and Sir Ninian Comper (here Cowper) and are of quite outstanding quality.

Indeed the book's most interesting contribution is to chart what happened in post-Reformation England. Copes and surplices went on although denounced as "popish rage". What does emerge is that the clergy are about as much controlled by the edicts of the Church as the laity were by sumptuary laws. It has always had and still has its dandies. Even in 1429 the Bishop of St David's was lamenting that "in this country clergy have no fixed habit assigned to them, either in shape or colour, and therefore may wear any kind of dress which is suitable to their state". On the whole, the clergy are meant to look dowdy, and with this as an objective they are in the main successful.

THE TIMES DIARY
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55.1 من الاصل

How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list."

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders

against the other target.

Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

Ratecapping makes no sense.

SPECTRUM

Turning non-stop trivia into an art form

The Times Profile: Terry Wogan

Terry Wogan breaks off from the conversation, swivels in his chair, flicks a switch and says into a microphone: "Yes, I'm sure you are." He is replying to the refrain of *Devoted To You*, which everybody else in the studio has forgotten.

About four million Radio 2 listeners are tuned in, however, and Wogan, half listening behind the off-the-air studio chatter, is ready. A finely-honed reflex has swung into action, but with the Wogan voice back on the air the mechanical perfection of his movements is replaced by fumbling, a few hummed bars and the shuffling of papers.

He has little idea about what is to happen next. He lights on a listener's letter. It proposes that a new roundabout should be named after him. He laughs, improvises a little on the idea, flicks on the next record and swivels back into the conversation.

The irony is that almost all of those four million listeners could not care less about *Devoted To You* or any of the music in his two-and-a-half hour show. They switch on and they stay switched on because of Wogan. The show is about

'I was pioneer of the radio pause. I never subscribed to the view that there should be noise all the time'

music in the same sense that *Dallas* is about oil: not at all.

Wogan himself is indifferent to most of the records and never listens to music at home. The records are there just to provide breathing space between his flights of fancy and listeners' letters.

It is all done, he explains, "on the wing". He works without notes and the first glimpse he has of the letters is when he picks them up to read on the air. Hence the unusual number of pauses on his show. "I pioneered the pause on radio," he claims. "I never subscribed to the view that there had to be noise all the time; you should give people time to think."

It is a breathtaking high-wire act of broadcasting technique, but after 12 years nobody believes that Terry is about to fall accidentally. He is preparing to jump off deliberately, however. On 28 December he is to leave Radio 2 to prepare for his three-nights-a-week television chat show, which starts in February on BBC1. The announcement that this was about to happen doubled his weekly mail from 1,000 to 2,000 letters, most playing along with his little conceit that he had been sacked.

Perhaps one of the most impressive tributes to the way in which Wogan has moulded his radio audience is the number of letters written in flawless Woganese, an ironic, mockingly pompous dialect of English especially suited to the elaboration of private fantasies.

There was, for example, the prolonged debate between Wogan and his public about why, if the earth was spinning, it was not possible simply to rise off the ground in a balloon and wait for Hawaii to come

round. Or what would happen if a hole was dug through to Australia and Wogan jumped down it? It was popularly assumed that he would land lightly on his feet on Bondi Beach.

The essence of the Wogan style lies in his ability to transform any crisis into a fragment of witty triviality. Nothing that can go wrong cannot be laughed off. His characteristic movement is a light, athletic skip, contrasting ironically with his burly build. His typical gag is the thinly-veiled put-down, then palliated effortlessly by self-deprecation. With Wogan in charge the pleasure lies in the discovery that he has forgotten to put a record on the turntable and hearing how he extricates himself.

Then, of course, there is the daily patter with Jimmy Young, the disc jockey whose show follows his. Ostensibly Young is coming in to plug his own show, but he is there really for the backchat. Young enters, stands over Wogan's desk and tries to run idly through his schedule. Wogan decries, guffaws, snorts and hurts insults. Young fights back, ever more gamely as the years have gone by; then they both retire unscathed.

All over the country, housewives go back to the children, and motorists notice that the lights have been green for some time. It is a national event, a daily ritual.

Wogan winds up the show just as the clock shows 10am. Wind-ups are sensitive moments. Poorly handled they can cause a sickening loss of listeners between programmes. "Was that too slick?" he asks with perhaps calculated nervousness. "I don't like it too slick."

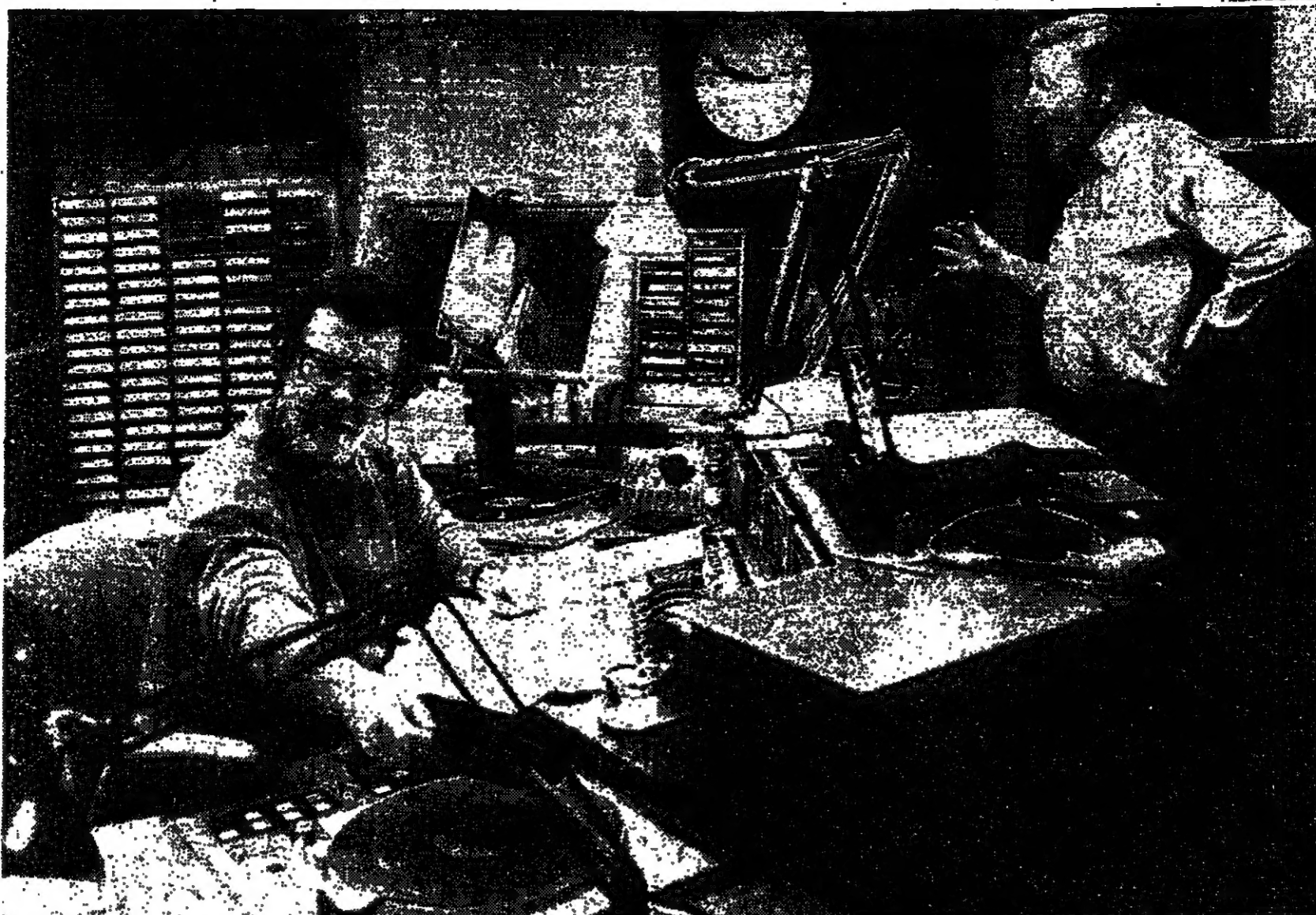
"Nice programme. Ter," says the producer. What else could he say? Wogan has created the market, defined the criteria. Producers do not have the vocabulary to cope with unmanageable success.

Next on this particular morning is a recording for Irish television to be transmitted at Christmas. The white broadcasting lie on this occasion is that he is speaking live, so he calmly recreates his Christmas Day for the benefit of the old country without a flicker of uncertainty at his little illusion.

Next, accompanied by a small and slightly baffling entourage, it is coffee at St Georges Hotel, which overlooks Broadcasting House. Waiters are solicitous, and guests and passers-by pause to note The Presence. Wogan is an environment, partly because of the pervasive quality of radio, but also because the world feels it has a claim on his personality. He is like British Telecom, only more so.

When he shares a telephone with the reference to James Joyce when he calls Young "the old artificer", other sense that he is theirs to the point where they feel jealous of Sophia Loren and Raquel Welch when they appear on his show.

As he calms down from the dutiful gregariousness, the shifting roles he plays for each person he meets, the anxiety



Flying the airwaves by the seat of his pants. Wogan in his studio with 'rival' Jimmy Young

about the television series begins to emerge. He knows he is better at radio - the medium that has nurtured and fed his enormous popularity. Cutting loose at the age of 46 is an awesome prospect, but there is a curious invulnerability about Wogan and it is this which seems to lie at the heart of his success.

He was born into a middle-class household in Limerick. His father managed a grocery store and was subsequently promoted to a better job in Dublin. Wogan had "the sense beaten into me" by the Jesuits at Belvedere, Joyce's old school, and made his way into Irish

'The BBC have Robin Day, Esther Rantzen, the Two Ronnies and me. The other side have old BBC people not working well'

broadcasting via banking and a seemingly unproductive year studying philosophy.

With his wife, Helen, and his first son, Alan, he gambled on Britain in 1969 as stand-in for Jimmy Young on BBC radio. A first child, a daughter, had died at the age of three weeks, a tragedy that seems to stand oddly alone in his largely untroubled progress.

Since then his rise to the top has been relentless. Some years after being given his own radio show, he tested the water in television via chat shows and *Blankety-Blank*, a game show of transcendent banality.

Throughout he gives the impression of moving systematically towards a style which would allow him simply to be himself, to be allowed to ad-lib and subvert mildly to his heart's



The Charmer at work: "I don't like it too slick."

content. This can be done only with the full confidence of the industry itself. Turning up scriptless and unprepared is not something you can foist on the average producer.

"It's the only talent I have," he says. "You can look at research, but not for too long. An interview is an interview. The important thing is what you get out of the person."

The real point, however, is that, deeply as Wogan thinks about what he is doing, it is the mountain that has come to him. The personality, for the moment, works, and broadcasting has had to adapt to accommodate him, not the other way round. In part this has been an inevitable step. The theatrical traditions of British broadcasting had long worn thin with their patronising and highly prepared approach.

Wogan does not have a single drop of theatrical blood in his veins and believes that television and radio trickery should be dispensed with. "It's not an audience out there, an audience

is when somebody laughs in the stalls and then somebody else laughs in the circle. But with radio, if somebody laughs in Stoke Poges it doesn't mean listeners are going to smile in Barnsley."

"I believe the way to do radio is without an excessive sense of the technicalities. I've never thought it mattered tuppence whether the record was playing at the right speed."

Transferring this art - pauses, fumbles and all - to television may prove impossible. Yet he is determined. He wants the show to be live. "What you are paid for is walking in off the street and being able to talk. What the hell is the point of appearing in front of a camera - for which you are being paid a lot of money - carrying a big clipboard? Anybody could do that."

Simple as this may sound, it creates immense difficulties: guests who dry up, rows, and the problem of finding a sufficiently flexible style of direction to cope. Furthermore, most American guests, on the

chat show circuit, are profoundly intimidated when they hear that Wogan will not provide a list of questions.

Wogan knows the problem well enough and points, out defensively, that a seemingly prickly customer like *Dallas* star Victoria Principal has already recorded a second interview with him for broadcasting at Christmas. He was, however, helped by some unexpected prompting.

"She was in Los Angeles and I was in London, and the fellow who was photographing her in L.A. had a male nude *Playgirl* centrefold which he was unrolling in front of her. The whole interview is punctuated by hysterical giggles. It was a beautiful interview, all that."

But he knows he works best on television with the home team of guests who know his style, who know what to expect in the way of mild offence. Woganese is a private language, known to several millions, but private nonetheless, and it takes years of training to become fluent.

He thinks his British audience has now had enough tuition to accept him on television, but there are two dangers - that the vocabulary is too narrow to cope with the huge variety of guests required for a three-times-a-week chat show, and that the magic will simply cease to function.

The end would not come overnight. The momentum is too great and there is a lot of institutional backing. "Obvious, isn't it? We're right. There's an awful lot riding on it. If it doesn't work it means that Michael Grade and Bill Cotton have made a big mistake and, not only that, they've wasted me. They've destroyed probably one of their biggest assets. They have Robin Day, Esther Rantzen, the Two Ronnies and me."

What does the other side have? A lot of old BBC people who are not working as well as they did at the BBC.

Therein lies the final invulnerability. Wogan, big as he is, is not really taking the risks. He merely turns up, propped, apart from his personality, and it either works or it doesn't.

'A lot of my work is very banal, very trivial, and I recognize it's only TV or radio, hardly brain surgery'

Directors, producers, managers, someone else, change it, change it, fitter away that, asset, but Wogan is confident that it persists - that bond between him and his public. Throughout his conversation, throughout his version of himself, there is the perpetual disclaimer: "Here I am, take me or leave me."

"I'm not a go-getter," he said. "I'm not a person who knocks on doors, I just wait for them to come to me. I walk away from it. It's the same in relationships. I don't worry about money; either as long as there is enough of it. People talk about pressure in show business. What pressure? There is

HIS CAREER

1938: Born August 3 in Limerick. Educated Crescent College, Limerick, and Belvedere College, Dublin. 1963: Joined RTE as announcer. 1965-67: Involved in various programmes for BBC Radio. 1968: Married Helen Joyce. 1969: The Wogans and their first son, Alan, move permanently to London. 1972: Takes over breakfast show on Radio 2. 1973: Variety Club BBC Radio Personality of the Year. 1977: Reaches number 15 in the charts with his recording of *The Floral Dance*. 1982: First Wogan chat show. 1979-84: TV *Times* television Personality of the Year six years running. 1979/80: Radio Industry Club Award, Radio Personality of the Year. 1982: Pye Award for Radio Personality of the Year. Lives with wife, two sons and one daughter at Taplow, Buckinghamshire, describes himself in *Who's Who* as "loving broadcaster", lists recreations as tennis, golf, swimming, reading and writing and clubs as Lord's Taverners, London Irish Rugby Football, Stoke Poges Golf and Temple Golf. Publications: *Banjaxed* (1979), *The Day Job* (1981) and *To Horse, To Horse* (1982).

some, but it's not insurmountable and you're well-cushioned by the money you're being paid. People can always lose TV series, but they retain a certain popularity so I don't think I'm ever going to starve. I don't care that much. I recognise that it's only TV or radio - it's not brain surgery. A lot of the work I do is trivial, it's very banal."

Back at home, near Maidenhead, with his wife and three children, he avoids talk about work and they hardly ever watch his shows.

The huge burden of identity normally given by Ireland to its sons seems lightly borne. "Oh, I always get the same question: 'How do you feel about the bomb at Harrods?' Well, you feel about twice as bad as anybody else."

Although his wife remains a practising Catholic, with Wogan the Jesuits failed to imprint their idea of identity; it leaves an eloquent void behind all the "personality". "I still read about religion a lot," he says. "I'm interested to know about the facts - I was meant to accept, but I left almost 20 years ago. Now I don't know what I am."

Bryan Appleyard



CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 520)

ACROSS

8. Ruling order (13)
9. Can (3)
10. Adjust (5)
11. Sacred song (5)
12. Ballet lights (7)
13. German messiah (7)
14. Turn-ups (5)
15. Youth period (5,4)
16. Wrath (3)
17. Possessor (8,5)

DOWN

1. Repeated (4,2)
2. Versé (6)
3. Aberrant (5)
4. Eyslash (6)
5. Lower jaw front (4)
6. Take place (6)
7. Authenticate (6)
8. Low coin (3)
9. Surgical cut (8)
10. Not on (3)
11. Prayer beads (6)
12. Large stingray (6)
13. Counting frame (6)
14. Quaker (6)
15. Adore (4)
16. Epithet (6)
17. Locality (5)
18. Dried (6)
19. Bunk (6)
20. Recherche (3)
21. Tudor (4)
22. Trash (5)
23. Wary (6)
24. Rabbi (6)
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SOLUTION TO No 519

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Punch

Broken, but not rib-cracking

moreover...
Miles Kington

Hello, it's skiing time again! And we all know what that means, don't we? (*Writes Uncle Rudie, your unbreakable guide to the piste.*) Yes, snow and pine trees, and blue skies, but above all - breaking your leg! That's what skiing is all about. You're out there, carelessly swooping down the lonely slope through the lovely trees when suddenly "crack" you're over and you have broken your leg.

Well, there's nobody in sight, because you've gone off on that lovely deserted run, and you've got to do something about it yourself, so I'm going to tell you now how to deal with it. Memorize this article immediately. Better still, take it with you and get it out when you've broken your leg.

Hello! Just broken your leg, have you? Don't panic. What you have got to do is straighten your leg as far as possible and then tie one ski to it as a splint. This will mean using your bootlaces to tie the ski on with. The other ski you can use as a crutch to hobble home with.

Unfortunately your boots will now fall off because you've taken the laces out. Also, the ski will be far too long to use as a splint, so to mention a crutch, so you will have to saw them down to the right length.

This means you should have brought with you spare boot laces, a saw and sandpaper. Did you? You didn't? Goodness, you are in trouble, aren't you? Perhaps we'd better bring in a real doctor.

Hello (*writes a hospital administrator*). Sorry we couldn't get a real doctor, but he was out playing golf. Anyway, there you are with a broken leg.

The next question is: Is my injury serious enough to warrant getting a doctor out? You know, a lot of hospital time is wasted by people who really aren't ill, or who have a simple ailment that their chemist could deal with.

So before you get a doctor out to look at your leg and reschedule of appointments, have a chemist look at it. A lot of these chaps are very good. Don't bother us. Get a chemist. The French for chemist, by the way, is *pharmacie*. Not at all. Glad to have helped. Cheers.

Cheers (*writes Jeremy, barman at the Coconut Glades*). While you're lying there in agony, a drink would be the ideal thing to cheer you up, so I've devised a Githwein Mexican Special for you - that's right, it's a wine plus tequila concoction.

Of course, you'll need four or five different bottles, plus a primus stove, and if you've left them behind with your documents, saw, boot laces etc, then I'm afraid I can't help you. You'll just have to wait for one of those dogs with brandy barrels to come along. Ciao.

Sorry for late (*writes a real*

doctor), but I was out playing golf. And I'm afraid the bad news is that brandy is out. Alcohol opens the veins at the surface and gives you a feeling of warmth, but you know, it also takes away the blood from vital internal organs, and then we're into heart attack country. What we need is something that closes the veins. And the only thing we've ever found like that is marijuana. Yes, odd isn't it? So get out a joint and light up.

Penalties for drug usage are fairly stiff in Switzerland (*writes a lawyer*), and whatever the doctor says it's going to be pretty embarrassing if you're lying there with a broken leg, putting away, and the first people to arrive are the Swiss Drug Squad, who have their own Mountain Drug Ring Busting team, and pretty efficient they are too. Had men, as well, I can't say I'd relish the thought of being beaten up lying there in the snow with a bad leg. Still, it's up to you. That'll be £60 - I'll let you have the bill.

Well, that's it (*concludes Rudie*). There you are, lying in the snow, as the dusk descends and the stars come out - and what stars! They are particularly lovely this time of year, and if you have your chart of the night sky with you, it will be an unforgettable experience. If you haven't, of course, it will be lost on you. So do remember when you go out skiing, always to have the following with you:

Boot laces, saw, sandpaper, insurance documents, mini-bar, primus stove, several marijuana joints and a night sky chart.

Have fun! Hope you survive!

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Which world famous electronic typewriter manufacturer is also one of Europe's leading computer companies?

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How the British sank their first Cognac Courvoisier

Cognac has long been a favourite of the British.

As far back as 1791, Dr Samuel Johnson made the following observation:

Claret is for heroes. But cognac is for men. But cognac is for heroes.

Be that as it may, it is certain that cognac is one of the most popular drinks in the world.

Courvoisier is the only cognac to be honoured with The Diploma Prestige de la France, the French award for excellence.

only a small minority of the British population are aware of the fact that Courvoisier is the British general's favourite drink. The Emperor's favourite was somewhat slim.

Circumstances changed that. In 1815, after his abdication, Napoleon arranged to leave secretly for the United States of America.

He loaded two ships with a variety of provisions, including cognac supplied by Emmanuel Courvoisier.

In 1860, Felix Courvoisier was appointed official purveyor of cognacs to the Court of Napoleon III.

Napoleon subsequently changed his mind and decided to give

Courtesy of Napoleon.

himself up to the British.

All his belongings, including the cognac, were eventually transferred to the HMS Northumberland, thus giving the British officers ample time to taste the cognac.

In fact they got such a taste for it that Courvoisier became known as the cognac of Napoleon.

Courvoisier is still made in the same way, using the best grapes of the Charente area of France.

All brandy is not cognac. Cognac can only be produced from the grapes of the Charente area of South West France, where conditions are ideal. Ordinary brandies can be produced anywhere, from almost any fruit.

It is matured in oak casks for a longer period than French cognac laws decree and blended by Master blenders, who serve an apprenticeship of at least ten years.

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PERFUMES



Nea

THE ARTS

Back to London and Shakespeare
at the National after a long, long
absence, Irene Worth talked to
John Higgins about her career

Never stick with the same guru

Irene Worth reckons that her return to London after a lengthy absence to play Volunna in the National's *Coriolanus* which opens on Saturday, delayed a few days by the director Peter Hall's brief illness, has given her a re-run of her career. On her first afternoon back, there on television was the old black and white movie of *The Two Mrs Carrolls*, the play in which she made her Broadway debut with Elisabeth Bergner. She walked into first rehearsal to find out that Tom Stoppard's *Rough Crossing* was none other than Molnar's *The Play's the Thing*, in which she had appeared with Clive Brook three years after that Broadway debut. And to complete the reminiscence, of things past there was also at the National *A Little Noel on the Side* - none other than Feydeau's *Hôtel Paradis* in which Miss Worth had partnered Alec Guinness at the old Winter Garden in Drury Lane.

She is no stranger to the National Theatre company. Her Jocasta in Peter Brook's *Oedipus* during the Old Vic days is not going to be forgotten. She had expected "a homecoming, albeit in a new house". But there instead, in those first few days, she was back in the same old house, the National.

"Yes, I have waited a long time and I confess to feeling nervous. I'm almost an outsider to Shakespeare and I simply can't recall the last time I played him on stage. [Gertrude in the *Hamlet* at Greenwich in 1974] I just hope I haven't left it too long. I remember Sybil [Thorndike] saying to me when we were together in *A Day by the Sea* with all those marvelous lines, 'Irene, you're a professional, and you're not to go as well as

very difficult - and the older you get the more difficult it becomes."

Will that earlier television Volunna have any influence on her present one? "None whatsoever. The medium is different, the leading man is different. I hate repeating myself. I'm not the same person that I was a year ago or the year before that. I've lived more and I've suffered more, and one of the prime consolations of living is that we can always hope for change."

The wait is unlikely to have done any harm because Irene Worth was some way into her career before she tackled either of the playwrights with whom she is most associated, Ibsen and Chekhov.

"Yes, everything I've done has been late. I was still at university in California when some of my contemporaries were on their way to being movie stars in Hollywood, and when later I was teaching school they were movie stars. That's probably why I've never played Juliet or Cordelia. Nor have I done *Cleopatra*. It was offered, but I reckoned I would have had to compromise, so I turned it down, and there's the greatest regret of all: no *Nina* in *The Seagull*."

Irene Worth: "Everything I've done has been late"

"But there was, thank God, Hedda. In Stratford, Ontario, Hedda was an incredible, indescribable, beautiful triumph, although I say it myself. At about that time I was going to do *Uncle Vanya* at Chichester with Larry [Olivier]. But he shilled and shalled and Stratford stepped in with Lear. God gave me *Goneril* [a title for the autobiography?] and then there was Hedda, the number one role for women as Hamlet is for men. And Mme Ranevskaya in *The Cherry Orchard* must be the number two role, at least as far as Irene Worth is concerned. Probably her best performance in it came in the 1979 New York production staged by a virtually unknown Romanian director, Andrei Serban, and with an equally unknown actress called Meryl Streep in one of the supporting roles."

"Yes, that was a memorable production. I had first met Andrei when we were working together with Peter Brook in Iran, but I didn't guess then what he was capable of. One night during that run at the Public Theater the stage manager hissed at me, during the middle of the performance, 'The lights are going out all over New York - do you want to

continue?' I hissed back 'Yes, of course we go on' and for a few moments it was like doing a broadcast in the dark. Then suddenly a phalanx of stage hands emerged all carrying candles across the front of the stage, illuminating that brilliant white set. It was almost as though the eighteenth century theatre had been reborn."

Mention of Peter Brook suggests that during parts of her career Irene Worth has tended to accept guru figures. Jonathan Miller in that Greenwich season was another one.

"In part that is true. The first guru - if you want that word - was Martha Graham. I watched her teaching a ballet class how to tear a piece of paper - 'Not enough tragedy', she would say, and then demonstrated how to do it. And that was how I tore the telegram in *The Cherry Orchard*. You ask if I've had my Brook period, my Miller period. Well perhaps I have. But I've never been talked into doing anything the mistakes I have made have always been my own. It is perfectly fine to accept a guru provided that you know just when to move on. Stay too long and you acquire their mannerisms. How much growth is there in a guru's life?"

Theatre

A wizard evening

The Wiz
Lyric, Hammersmith

From his record as a director of American musicals, a promoter of black theatre, and a pioneer of the electronic fairy tale, you can see why Peter James has settled on this Harlem adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* for the Lyric's Christmas show.

It certainly looks and sounds stunning. Dorothy's Kansas shack takes off in flashes of stroboscopic lighting, and once she has made the trip down the Yellow Brick Road (enacted by two slinky dancers carrying yellow finger-pots), the Big Green Apple comes into view as a vision of emerald skyscrapers, sparking under revolving spokes of light. The Wiz himself first arises on a hydraulic plinth attired in a parachute-sized cloak, and makes his departure by helicopter. Also there is a 10-piece band laying down a powerful jazz beat for most of the evening, until Charlie Small's score subsided into uplifting Broadway clichés.

The story, however, has gone up in smoke. *The Wiz* does not simply relocate Frank Baum's fable in Manhattan: it also transforms it into a black community show, and that means there can be no villains. It is OK to make affectionate fun of Dorothy's travelling companions (who include a fine comic acrobat in Clarke Peters's Scarecrow). But there is no question of unmasking the Wiz himself. He may be a trickster, but he has made it to the top, and his big number, "Believe in Yourself" is promptly taken up by the Good Witch.

As for the supposedly wicked



Celena Duncan, with the searing voice, as Dorothy

Evillene (Earlene Bentley), she comes on strong as a red-hot enchantress reclining in a bower of roulette wheels and fruit machines, belittling the blues at her cringing menials. But there is no real harm in her, and she is liquefied in no time after capturing Dorothy. The only outright villain is Uncle Sam, whose malevolent white features confront the scared travellers from a giant poster in the forest.

Plot aside, William F. Brown's book is charmingly

characterized and witty: as in its handling of Green Apple officials, and in presenting the Lion (Clem Jones) as a would-be baseball hero. There are some fine, searing voices, particularly from Celena Duncan and Earlene Bentley. And when dance takes over from dialogue, as with two showgirl poppies and their *Mahina* pusher, or Evillene's team of black-leather monkeys, even the story comes together.

Irving Wardle

Hairspray and the Mohican ritual

Mohicans
Donmar Warehouse

It remains to be seen whether Garry Lyons's play will attract the Wet Paint Company's loyal punk following to leaven the Warehouse audience. But for the rest of us, Jim Wall and Nick Legard as two Mohicans from Woodhouse, Leeds 6, give a riveting account of their lifestyle. Water and sugar makes the best spics, they get through three jumbo cans of hairspray a week, and "On a bald bit, you can write 'Fascist' with a felt tip to cover up your acne". Hair takes an hour a day, which may

not be in the Queen Charlotte class but certainly rises to ritual level.

And that is the point: the play actually presses the Indian parallel. Jobless punks are dispossessed, persecuted for their lifestyle (though non-acceptance is surely its point), and eventually it comes to sounds of an Indian massacre accompanying mother's description of her ordeal at the DHSS, and the boys shooting a shopkeeper and being reincarnated as Redskins.

All this is too much to swallow, though Mr Lyons stresses the chants, war gear and ritual offers of Tetley's, and even makes the old dear in the

corner shop (Gina McKee) a sort of local Witch of Endor. Graham Devlin's Major Road Company production is most convincing at grassroots level, especially Gill Wright as a red-eyed mother, terrified of the electricity bill and living on Valium and the *Sun* crossword. As her sly offspring, Mr Legard nips up to Woodhouse Ridge for a sniff of Evo-Suk (Evo to initiate) or steals a squirt of café ketchup in a plastic bag, while Mr Wall's big soft moaner is memorably greeted by a girlfriend with "Eyoop, misery-guns".

Anthony Masters

Galleries

Purist and protester

John Deakin/Edwin Smith
Victoria and Albert Museum

John Deakin and Edwin Smith were both born in 1912; Smith died in 1974, Deakin in 1972. Both, also, came from English working-class families, and both nurtured initial ambitions to be painters. But there the likeness ends. Smith, though he never stopped drawing in his notebooks, very soon decided that he was completely happy to be a photographer. In the 1930s he experimented with a few genres - the nude, for instance - with which one would not ever associate him, and some of the earliest pictures in the exhibition, and the resplendent book which accompanies it, *Edwin Smith: Photographs 1933-1974* (Thames and Hudson, £18), are of people in the streets of London or entertainers in a Home Counties carnival and look surprisingly like, say, Bill Brandt's of the same period.

After the war, however, he found his way towards that specialization which helps to make a name. A Smith photograph immediately recognisable landscape, especially close-up details of landscape, and even more architecture and interiors - it would do him an injustice to suggest that it was solely the subject-matter which distinguishes his work: there is a precise appreciation of texture, and the way the light falls across



Deakin's view of poet W. S. Graham (detail)

different stones or woods or fabrics which no other photographer has quite achieved. Nor does a very English feeling for quaintness (not for nothing was he a favourite artist of *The Saturday Book*) detract from a purist rigour and discipline: even his little jokes have to make perfect artistic sense.

Deakin was not interested in the quaint and twee, at least as a photographer, made jokes. He saved his art for his life: his art was always head-on and unflinching. He seems to have been generally self-hating and self-destructive, never liked being a photographer or felt satisfied with it, and deliberately sabotaged those who tried to collect and preserve his work.

or indeed commission him to do more of it - all in favour of paintings which even his nearest and dearest universally agree were ghastly. As a photographer his forte was the depiction of people. His volume of views of *London Today* (1949), though it has its admirers, strikes me as rather ordinary, but there is nothing in the least ordinary about his amazing, uncluttered close-ups of Francis Bacon, W. S. Graham or indeed himself: in the first two cases somehow even the extreme delapidation of the only known surviving prints seems oddly suitable and expressive. The show is subtitled "The Salvage of a Photographer".

John Russell Taylor

Concert

The strongest of French impressions

Lontano
St John's

Lontano's current concert series has the title "French Impressions" ("The French Connection" must have been sorely tempting, but might have given the wrong impression) and is based around an extremely characterful group of composers including Xenakis, Boulez and Debussy. None of those three were in Tuesday night's third instalment, however, instead the focus fell on André Bon - entirely unknown to me, a Messiaen pupil born in 1946 - and on the altogether more approachably Frenchified music of Poulenc, Ibert and Milhaud.

By way of contrast, the other concerts have offered English music by James Dillon: this one gave instead a welcome chance to hear again Simon Bainbridge's 1983 *Concertante in moto perpetuo*, a bubbling, intoxicating mixture of repetitive fragments, relentlessly sustained, providing a vehicle for Gareth Hulce's oboe to pit itself against the equally furious activity of the accompanying ensemble. I could identify with the composer's description of the work as a character study of his energetic, two-year-old daughter, but there was more light and air, more sense of respite and newly renewed energy, than the *moto perpetuo* description might imply.

André Bon's *Fancy* fell on sounds far less active, though there were moments of similarly frenetic activity in this eleven-and-a-half minute fantasy, it was the period of wandering, gentle exploration, signalled by the atmospheric playing of Ingrid Culliford as the fine flute soloist, that caught the ear. But there was less continuity to sustain the listener than in Bainbridge's invention: the textures were dominated by the colourful effects of tuned percussion, harp, celesta and guitar, and drifled with sometimes dangerous insubstantiality.

But there was a very high energy quotient in John Harle's exuberant run-through of Ibert's *Concertino da Camera* (an aptly modest title for a work which needs modesty) and it was certainly worthwhile enduring this less than profound experience to have Harle take part in the concluding Milhaud *La Création du Monde*, a really very fine account of this flash-in-the-pan score, in which Odaline de la Martinez's direction caught perfectly the mix of jazzy irreverence and native wishfulness. It is extraordinary how powerfully Milhaud's mixture still comes across compared with most of his milk-and-water output: the strongest of French impressions.

Nicholas Kenyon

Television

Nearly flesh and blood

The single eye of a camera is an ungrudging spectator, offering the actor close scrutiny without engagement, precluding the scope afforded by the dimensions of a stage.

On the latter, Alec McCowen is a veteran soloist and successful, lately with Brian Clark's *Kipling*. Last night on Channel 4 he took on the heady eye with Kipling and much self-confidence for the best part of 90 minutes and I thought, well, his self-confidence justified, surviving even the commercial breaks.

Kipling would surely, while retaining the attraction of his psyche, have appreciated that he was a star with an obsessive, at times a slight obsession to perfection, through the great man's eyes.

Highly possibly Kipling might not have been the main

reads and sounds to have been; that he was an establishment critic as much as an establishment man; not belonging to it but bound by some self-imposed order of priorities which he believed to be inherent in the English race.

To anyone born after 1935, his voice must surely ring oddly, but as an enigma he is interesting, and Messrs Clark and McCowen made him as near flesh and blood as may be.

Perhaps the best clue to that imperious, unquenchable bewilderment of his childhood, isolated from his parents and cruel, no doubt the luckless boy exhorted himself to be brave and, child, into man, kept at it.

BBC's *The Boy of Delights* is scheduled at a time which acknowledges it from the reach of memory, which is their loss. The series are running before 5 pm. Alan Seymour's adaptation.

of this Massfield classic is faithful and superb. The production, by Paul Stone, directed by Kenny Rye, a name Massfield would surely have thought apt, is made possible on television by the vast advance in special effects techniques. They are used without damage to content.

Last night again, much knobbling and scrobbling with Devin Stunfield as the hero, Kay, taking special effects and all in his stride, at large in the villains' lair. The stunts rise to the occasion, too: Robert Stephens flying from intimacy to rage most unpredictably, his partner Patricia Quinn, as Sylvia Daisy Pounce, matching him marvellously.

For deprived adults without a magic video box themselves, let us hope there will be the indulgence of a weekend repeat.

Dennis Hackett

Esä-Pekka Salonen has been appointed principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra from January 1. Salonen, a young Finnish conductor, made his debut with the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall in September 1983 when he learnt and conducted Mahler's Third Symphony at a week's notice with outstanding success.

Next year's Wexford Festival will cover three centuries of opera. On the opening night there will be Catalani's *La Wally*, first performed in 1892, this will be followed by Handel's *Ariodante* (1735) and Kurt Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* (1930). The festival opens on October 23 and, as usual, runs for 10 days.

Next year's Bath Festival, from May 24 to June 9, is to include a celebration of Hungarian life and culture, as well as much music by the twentieth-century composers Bach, Handel and Scarlatti.

The Royal Opera

Die Fledermaus

John Nesch
 Conductor: Julius Riedel
 Cast includes: Thomas Allen, Barbara Daniels, Elizabeth Gale, Dennis O'Neill, Hanna Schwarz, Russell Smythe
 December 15, 18, 22, 31 (sold out)
 January 3 at 7.00pm
 Boxing Day at 1.50pm
 Tickets from £6.50



The Royal Ballet

The Nutcracker

A new production by Peter Wright of
 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
 Conductors: Gemma Rozhdensvensky
 Barry Wordsworth, Jan 1, 9, 18
 Choreography: after Lev Ivanov
 Design: Julia Trevelyan Oman
 Lighting: John B. Read
 Some tickets still available for
 December 27, 28; January 1, 9, 13
 at 7.30pm
 December 26; January 26, 30 at
 8.00pm
 Tickets from £4.00



Reservations
 01-240 1066
 Access/Visa/Diners Club
 Design for The Nutcracker by Julia Trevelyan Oman



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

PRESCRIBING PROPAGANDA

Professional interest is outraged. That powerful professional trade union, the British Medical Association, circulates its members urging them to fight into political mobilization vulnerable patients (who have conveniently never set eyes on family practitioner committees' cash accounts). Even more terrifying, the BMA proclaims itself the keeper of "fundamental principles" of the National Health Service: the same system of health care which forty years ago it fought to kill, the system born of BMA filibusters, wrangling and compromise. That distinguished elderly doctor turned politician, Lord Hill of Luton, scourge of socialized medicine on the BMA's behalf, must be excused his hollow chuckling.

The BMA's hyperbole against the Government's modest proposals to exclude certain classes of drug from NHS prescription is regrettable. The espousal in advertising placed by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry of the cause of the poor and the elderly is risible; let it plead the case of Hoffman-La Roche and Eli Lilly (foreign companies that will be most affected by the proposals) instead. If these attempts to whip up revolt among Tory backbenchers are modelled on the protests over student grants, the signs are not that they will backfire, but that they will be crushed by American-style write-ins and carefully prepared tear-off slips. The hysteria, however, should not prevent a point being made against the Government. Though right in principle on this issue, Mr. Fowler should leave himself room to alter the practical arrangements for identifying the new black-list of drugs. He can still both benefit patient and

doctor and keep faith with the taxpayers.

A year ago, in protectionist mood, the Government backed down in the face of the pharmaceutical industry's strenuous lobbying. The proposal then - supported more or less by the medical profession - was to end the prescription of name-brand drugs in favour of generics. For example, diazepam would be prescribed by the GP if a tranquillizer were required rather than the more expensive brand Valium. Mr. Fowler still faces the same not-cash-limited bill for general practice and the still-growing cost of NHS drugs and he has returned to the battlefield with a revised plan, "home cures" such as cough mixtures and tranquillizers, all preparations except those on a strictly delimited list are to be excluded from NHS prescription. The result, the Government says, could be a saving of £100 million a year, purchased at minimal loss of clinical elbow room and, given the nature of the preparations, at no danger to patients.

The response, because self-interested, largely ignores the volume of self-medication that already takes place; it is anomalous that an array of tonics, analgesics and indigestion tablets easily bought over a chemist's counter should be available on prescription. For Labour's spokesman to cry that if a drug is not worth prescribing it should not be available at all embodies the typical inability of the collectivist to trust people in their habitual self-diagnosis and self-prescription for a range of common-or-garden ailments. On the basis of the lists published by the Government there is little merit in the ABPT's claim that

limited supply will penalize the poor. The list needs amendment, but there is no reason why a sufficient number of alternative (cheaper) vitamins and sedatives should not remain for prescription; to substitute a generic for Mogadon is no hardship. The Government's plan is a modest and overdue reform.

Yet, at the margins of diagnosis and therapy there may be cases where only a specific pharmaceutical, name-branded or no, fits the patient's condition. Were his drug excluded, there would be discrimination against the patient. To avoid this we have to rely on the probity of the doctor's advice given Mr. Fowler. Here perhaps the government has been hasty. Whatever the BMA may claim, the medical profession is not monolithic. The government would be well to put together a senior and genuinely independent committee with a brief to label the "less important" drugs and so reassure a public which treasures the opinions of medical professionals. Certainly if there were to be further restrictions on prescription drugs (the limited list already operates widely and uncontroversially in hospitals) there is a case for such a committee and perhaps also an appeals mechanism.

Meanwhile let Mr. Clarke defend his corner and educate the public with vigour - some of his recent performances against the BMA have had veritably Bevanite robustness. The policy is armoured by the need for NHS economy and administrative rationalization. The doctors and the druggists may want to turn the issue into a re-run of student grants and so freeze policy-making in public health. They have to fail.

Visual safety on the motorway

From Mr Alan K. McCombie

Sir, Motorway collisions in fog always occur because a driver thinks he is going slowly enough when in fact he is not. No amount of prior exhortation or penal deterrence can prevent this simple misjudgement.

What is required is a means of telling each driver, continuously, what his maximum speed should be. Some time ago, the following method occurred to me (it is obvious enough) and I am quite unable to see any fallacy in it.

It is that spaced reflectors be installed along the length of the carriageway, and the maximum legal speed at any point should then depend on the number of reflectors visible.

Such markers (small reflective tabs on posts) are already deployed along motorways, but their position, spacing, size and style make them unsuitable for this purpose. However, they nicely demonstrate the principle.

On a slightly misty night, six are visible. As the nearest one flashes by, a seventh appears in the distance. If they were suitably arranged and sequentially coloured, it could be stipulated that five in view meant 50 mph, four meant 40, and so on down.

The clarity of the indication would, in fact, increase with the density of fog. So would the safety margin, since the braking distance of a vehicle varies with the square of its speed.

No other proposed system even approaches the potential efficiency of this. It has clarity and moral force: it is inexpensive, yet it cannot break down. Above all, it is continuous. Present-day warning systems lack credibility because both the fog detectors and the displays are necessarily at intermittent points.

Undoubtedly the markers would have to be of cunning design. There would be a question of re-calibration for kilometres and other problems. As an engineer, I assert that a good development team would dispose of such difficulties.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MCCOMBIE,
43 Hillfield Park, N10,
December 11.

Merseyside to remain

From the Leader of Merseyside County Council

Sir, Your editorial (November 24) about the future of local government has some general merit but, when you deal with specifics, I am sorry, you have got it wrong.

Merseyside is not divided, as you say, by a river. Well over 20 million tonnes of goods cross it each year, and it is not alone the 50,000 daily train journeys. Thousands of people living in Birkenhead and Wallasey are dependent for jobs and social facilities on what happens in Liverpool.

There is a job for a Merseyside countywide authority and indeed the Government's abolition case accepts both the continuation of the County of Merseyside and the effectiveness of many countywide services, including police, fire, public transport, museums and theatres. All the Government seeks to do is to abolish a directly elected and democratically accountable authority and replace it with more central control.

Finally, perhaps you could persuade the Government or Parliament itself to grant a proper independent inquiry into the structure of local government in all the metropolitan counties, including Merseyside, so that the county council's records can be put to the test.

No doubt I and our third minister for Merseyside will agree to give evidence to the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
KEVA COOMBS, Leader,
Merseyside County Council,
PO Box 95,
Metropolitan House,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
December 4.

Letters to Russia

From Mr Patrick Lacey

Sir, Miss Judy Levy (December 5) may be too young, bless her, to remember a famous precedent for the Soviet Cx or CPU's Catch 22 rule that "should an item sent by registered post to the USSR fail to be delivered, it is incumbent upon the proposed recipient to write confirming the non-receipt of said item".

Seventy years ago millions of us sang, often and fortissimo: "Paddy wrote a letter to his Irish Molly-O
Saying 'if you don't receive it, write and let me know'".

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK LACEY,
Lime Villas,
Cavendish,
Suffolk.

Limits of the law

From Mr Ralph Beddard

Sir, Your editorial comment on Friday, November 30, headed "Limits of the law", was inspired by the recent judgement of the International Court of Justice concerning its jurisdiction to hear the case brought by Nicaragua against the United States.

It could equally have been written about the use of national courts in the settlement of disputes between the Government and powerful groups in society, and particularly at the present time, the involvement of the courts in the miners' strike.

The International Court has always been faced with the problem of how far it should be used in disputes with high political content. In 1948 it said:

The court cannot attribute a political character to a request which, framed in abstract terms, invites it to undertake an essentially judicial task, the interpret-

No place to rent at Christmas time

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, This Christmas there will be tens of thousands of our fellow citizens without adequate accommodation. Undoubtedly a major reason for this is the large-scale reduction in public expenditure on housing, which has fallen by some 60 per cent since 1979-80. In my own borough, Walsall, for instance, no contracts have been entered into for new council housing since 1979.

In a brief, which a number of MPs have received from the Building Employers' Confederation, we were informed that they have estimated that, due to further cuts in 1984-85, housing starts in the public sector will be down a further 14 per cent (to 38,500). Improvement grants will be 17 per cent down on the previous year, and there will be a 6 per cent reduction in the renovation to the public-sector stock.

Among the other facilities provided by the voluntary sector are supportive hostels for those young people least able to cope with living independently. Presently, people stay for around six months and are often paying a charge based on DHSS board and lodging limits. As the new proposals do not specifically exclude hostels, we must assume they are included.

The practical effect of this may well be to close these hostels, often built with capital finance through the Department of the Environment with the participation of the Home Office, London Boroughs Association and the private sector.

The proposals are based on the assumption that people who have moved in order to seek employment should be able to find work in two to four weeks. In the present youth employment market, we believe this assumption is hopelessly unrealistic.

Even in those circumstances where people will be entitled to board and lodging payments, the suggested levels for central London mean that the kind of accommodation available will at best be squalid and overcrowded, and at worst non-existent.

While we accept that there has been some exploitation of the present regulations, we believe that the sledgehammer approach suggested will do great damage.

In our view, the primary reason for the increase in payments for board and lodging is the increase in homelessness. The Government could attack this by a programme of investment in housing, and a system of licensing and inspecting bed and breakfast hotels. It chose instead to attack a particularly vulnerable group, to make them even more vulnerable, and to undermine the funding arrangements of those voluntary agencies already swimming against the financial tide. If the proposals are carried through, it could mean that literally thousands of young people will be sleeping on the streets.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS FENTON, Director,
GERALD REDDINGTON,
Chairman,
Campaign for Soho,
St Anne's House,
57 Dean Street, W1,
December 11.

Sunday trading

From Lady Warner

Sir, I feel strongly that, in the debate about Sunday trading, the importance of peaceful Sundays in areas such as this one (so close to Kensington High Street) should not be overlooked. Here, it is not what is sold on Sundays that matters, but the sort of shop by which it is sold.

Free Sunday opening by the little shops that serve only the local residents would be most welcome. But Sunday opening of the big shops that attract customers from far and wide would be quite another thing.

We already have, for six days each week, the environment that results from their trading, with the attendant excitement of traffic wardens and traffic jams. Free Sunday opening of those shops would take away from us the one quiet day a week we have.

I do not see, however, how such a distinction between categories of shops could be drawn, for the country as a whole, by an Act of Parliament. Some provincial towns now have big shopping complexes on their outskirts, the Sunday opening of which would harm nobody. Could not, therefore, the grant of permission to trade on Sunday be in the hands of the local authorities, as an extension perhaps of their powers under the Town and Country Planning Acts?

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA F. WARNER,
32 Abington Villas, W8,
December 9.

VAT on publications

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, The Secretary General of the International Publishers Association is surely right when he suggests in his letter (December 4): "British voters should demand that their members of Parliament in Strasbourg request that VAT on books should be zero-rated throughout Europe, following the example of Great Britain, Ireland and Norway."

But the support of British MEPs may not be enough. The Chancellor of the Exchequer should put an end to all suggestions that we may have to tax newspapers and books in order to reduce the difference

between our VAT base and the VAT levied in other EEC countries. He should then launch a vigorous campaign to persuade other EEC finance ministers to get in step with us. After all, when we joined the EEC, many of us told our constituents that the rest of Europe needed our guidance; and a British initiative in this direction should generate widespread support among continental newspapers and publishers.

If Nigel Lawson succeeded in winning such a campaign the indirect benefits to this country could be considerable.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
House of Commons,
December 6.

of the court, but also the realization that a relatively small proportion of disputes can be settled by judges.

The short-lived National Industrial Relations Court served to indicate that courts are likely to be little more than marginally contributive where the disputants are powerful entities each with a separate, vital interest in establishing its own pattern of rule-creative behaviour.

Irrespective of the fundamental beliefs or ideologies of either side, there must be, as you indicate in reference to international law but not to domestic courts, an understanding of the limited use not of law but of judicial determination.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BEDDARD,
University of Southampton,
Faculty of Law,
Highfield,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
December 3.

Muffling a voice in Europe

From Mr Christopher Tugendhat and others

Sir, The Representation of the People Bill, now before Parliament, proposes to grant the right to vote in parliamentary and European elections to non-residents whose names appeared on an electoral roll within seven years of the date of an election.

The Home Secretary has acknowledged that the seven-year limit is arbitrary and is justified only by the assumption that absence is bound to make links with home grow weaker. The Bill, if passed, would condemn to non-representation expatriates who have been abroad for more than seven years and who have had no opportunity to renew their electoral registration.

This disqualification will apply in particular to all but a few of the Britons who are members of staff members of European Community institutions outside Britain. Not being Crown servants they do not qualify for the service vote available to members of the diplomatic and Armed Services.

The Home Office argues that it would be discriminatory to enfranchise European Community staff but not expatriates who work abroad in the private sector; and indefensible to give voting rights to Britons who live in European Community member states only.

On the first point, the British Government has already recognised the distinctive status of Britons who work for Community institutions in the British Nationality Act of 1941. On the second point, the distinction between the treatment of members of the European Community and non-member states goes with Community membership.

We hope that Parliament will accept that Britons working in European Community institutions and their spouses should have the right to vote in Britain without limit of time.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT
(Vice-President, Commission of the European Communities, Brussels),
IVOR RICHARD (member of the Commission),
C. J. CAREY (member, Court of Auditors, European Communities, Luxembourg),
MICHAEL PALMER,
(Deputy Director General, Secretariat General of the European Parliament, Luxembourg),
C. R. ROSS (Vice-President, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg),
S. NICOL (Director General, Secretariat General of the Council, Brussels),
Avenue Roger Vandendriessche 81,
1150 Brussels,
December 5.

Tax and the low paid

From Mr C. N. Beattie, QC

Sir, Mr Nigel Forman, MP, states in his letter to you (December 10) that no one has yet explained convincingly how higher tax thresholds will enable more of the employed to find work. The absence of explanation is due to the fact that most members of Parliament are too out of touch with real life to know the answer, and those few who do know lack the courage to say so in public.

The explanation is that a not inconsiderable number of the unemployed do not wish to take up available jobs, because they would rather be paid for doing nothing than work for not much extra money. Widening the gap between unemployment pay and pay for a job will induce some of such people to begin working again.

Yours faithfully,
C. N. BEATTIE,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
December 10.

Greece and EEC

From Mr Y. Hittos

Sir, As it is vital to introduce the element of blackmail in inter-European Community financial arguments (see her threat to let the EEC go broke by withholding Britain's total contribution to the EEC budget if the Community did not agree to a significant reduction of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget), Mrs Thatcher has neither the right nor the authority, nor the power for that matter, to attack Mr Papandreu's use of similar tactics in pursuit of his own financial demands from the EEC.

The best she could do on this occasion, so soon after she brought the European Community to the brink of financial collapse, is to remain silent and let other more credible voices in the Community make whatever criticism is to be made of Mr Papandreu's behaviour.

Yours sincerely,
Y. HITTOS,
22 Lysia Street, SW6,
December 6.

Proof positive

From Dr John Penman

Sir, When Mr Ewart (December 5) calls for electronic cricket bats (tongue in cheek, I hope), he raises the question of what this erstwhile game has become. For some time it has been a religion and an industry, and now it is to be a subject for technological experiment.

May I suggest a small radar set on the batsman's head, to inform him, through auditory signals, on what axis the ball is spinning, in which direction and how fast? Powered roller-skates for the fielders are long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PENMAN,
Forest View,
Upper Chute,
Andover,
Hampshire,
December 5.

of the court, but also the realization that a relatively small proportion of disputes can be settled by judges.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

BP sets a trend for in-house banking

British Petroleum is as aware as any oil major that it is as important to manage cash with at least the skill and application it brings to oil. The company has an active foreign exchange department, handling the massive dollar transactions, it has now incorporated this in a banking unit BP Finance International.

BPFI does not take deposits from third parties and this will not need Bank of England approval. It will handle functions usually undertaken by financial advisers, who will still be engaged, more selectively, when BP is required to have independent advice. It will be the job of an estimated 80 staff based in London and under the aegis of group treasurer, Mr John Brown, to offer a range of specialized banking services to BP's 11 businesses and associated companies in Britain and overseas.

Money volumes for BP run at about £250,000 a day and although figures are difficult to come by, the business of managing money could run at £3 billion a year. As a full service bank BPFI will have specialized commercial and merchant banking departments, handling project finance, new business proposals, mergers, acquisitions and disposals. It will devise and oversee financial policies and strategies for the group, and manage BP's relationships with the financial community and its shareholders.

This formal move into banking is an imaginative acknowledgement that a company's cash, particularly when it is as large as BP's, can become a profit-centre in its own right. It is also in tune with the mood of change in the City and the elevation of "financial services" into a high profile, growth industry.

The fascinating question is the size and direction of BP's external banking ambitions.

Leadership needed at Charter

Rarely are stiff upper lips maintained by such aplomb as they were yesterday by senior executives of Charter Consolidated as they unveiled the financial horrors caused by events of recent months. The six months to September 30 were an unmitigated disaster. As Oscar Wilde might have said: to write off substantial amounts on one investment is unfortunate, to write off substantial amounts on two is sheer carelessness.

The figures speak for themselves: a £46.4 million loss on the disposal of Johnson Matthey Bankers and costs of £18.2 million relating to the rationalization of Cape Industries have left an ugly scar on the profit and loss account below the line.

Above the line the picture is equally depressing. Interim pretax profits of £7.7 million were not as bad as some had expected but they are well down on the £22 million reported a year ago. Losses at Cape and Johnson Matthey's decision not to pay a dividend contributed to the poor trading performance, but there is little comfort in Charter's interests which remained plague proof. Even the normally reliable investment portfolio failed to live up to expectations. The surplus on realizations was a meagre £401,000 which is attributable more to poor investment management than market conditions.

The Charter management may put on a brave face and say that it is over the worst but the aftermath of the Cape and JMB

disasters will see a further drain on cash flow as the two companies are put back on their feet.

Charter's balance sheet is strong enough to withstand pressures and its gearing of 27 per cent poses no real threat. Therein lies Charter's problem. Sitting on a strong asset backing, it was just too comfortable. The board's inability to create any kind of corporate identity or to evolve a coherent plan finally came home to roost. The group cries out for a powerful and dedicated management.

Problems of index linked gilts

Some three and a half years ago, the Bank of England issued its first index-linked gilt, partly in a bid to cut the excessive cost of public sector funding. A 2 per cent coupon on the stock, Treasury Index-Linked 1996, clearly made sense in the context of comparable yields in the 13½ per cent region. Investors grudgingly at first, bought the stock, and subsequently bought others despite misgivings about the open-ended nature of the repayment liability.

Go the initial questions remain unanswered, mainly because inflation has fallen sharply. Nevertheless, the introduction of index-linked gilts may prove to have been the most ill-judged move made by the authorities.

For essential virtue of index-linked gilts is that they enable investors, for the first time, to price the market more accurately. Traders now have too much knowledge for the Bank of England's comfort about its funding operations.

Mr Stephen Lewis, gilt-edged seen at Phillips and Drew, tackled these questions at the stockbroker's investment seminar yesterday. According to the Lewis model of the gilt-edged market, yields can be broken down into three components: real yield, an inflation adjustment element, and a risk premium which remains fairly constant.

Such a forensic approach, of course, is not new. What is novel is the way that an index-linked proxy for any particular stock now enables investors to work out the market's real yield requirements and its inflation expectations.

According to Mr Lewis, the differential between fixed-coupon and index-linked yields leads investors towards the other components of fixed-coupon yields. This differential has tracked the decline in the inflation rate fairly closely in the past two years. But the market may be fast approaching a sea-change.

Inflation may be set to start rising, while the outlook for real yields, currently about 3½ per cent, is more problematical, mainly because the sluggish British economy cannot justify such a high figure. If so real yields would fall and index-linked stocks would rise in price.

By the same token, conventional gilts should perform relatively poorly, since a rise in inflation expectations must be followed by an increase in conventional yields. On this basis, the argument in favour of a switch from conventional stocks into index-linked is strong.

Such an analysis would have been impossible before index-linked stock were introduced. Equally, gilts would, perhaps, not have hesitated, as much as they have done in the current cycle at the 10 per cent yield barrier.

Maxwell concedes defeat in £44m bid for Waddington

By Philip Robinson and William Kay

John Waddington last night was assured of victory in fighting off a £44 million takeover bid from Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation. It is the second time Waddington has defeated Mr Maxwell's bids in as many years.

Mr Maxwell conceded defeat just before 4.30 yesterday afternoon, even though his bid does not technically expire until 3pm today.

The deciding factor was a placing by BPC of the stockbrokers' £4.6 per cent stake in Waddington's funds, under management. These went to a wide variety of institutions thought to support the Waddington board.

However, the sale price of 507.5p per share was just above the 500p cash being offered by BPC. When the shares came on offer late Tuesday night, the asking price was thought to be 520p.

A spokesman for Warburg Investment Management said: "The first thing we must say is that we normally support the management and we have done this and accepted what is a very attractive price for us."

Last night Waddington's shares dropped 18p to 502p.

Mr Maxwell said: "I conceded so that everyone would now where they stand and in the interests of an orderly market. This was not a ploy by me, but we could still win if the share price falls below 500p. It is still open to the institutions to change their mind."

However, in a formal statement earlier, BPC said that after the sale by an uncommitted institution of 1.2 million shares, (14.6 per cent) this added to the 45 per cent already announced as being committed to Waddington made it impossible for BPC to succeed.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington chairman, said: "I am



Victor Watson: 'confident but not complacent'

confident but not complacent. I am very pleased at being able to fight off Mr Maxwell for a second time."

BPC says it is considering its position. Britain's largest printing company still holds a 23 per cent stake in Waddington.

Mr Watson added: "I hope he will sell his shares and go away. I do not want him as a shareholder but I cannot predict what will happen. Mr Maxwell is unpredictable."

Waddington and Kleinwort Benson, its merchant bank advisor, have already challenged the ultimate ownership of the BPC stake which rests with a Liechtenstein-registered company, Pergamon Holding Foundation.

Under British law a company is entitled to know the ultimate beneficial ownership of its shares. Refusal to reveal this will run the risk of shares being disenfranchised by the High Court and dividend payments on those shares suspended.

So far, Mr Maxwell has said that the ownership of the foundation is a private matter. But he is expected to announce next week that ultimate control lies with the French family interests of his wife, and thereby avoid any High Court action.

12.6% stake in Vosper for NRDC

The National Research Development Corporation, an offshoot of the government's industrial holding company British Technology Group, is taking a 12.6 per cent stake in the enlarged equity of Vosper, the shipbuilding and repairing company.

The £1.5m proceeds of the placing of 816,000 shares at 183.3p will go to Vosper Hovermarine to enable it to pay £1.5 million to NRDC and to Hovercraft Development, a subsidiary of NRDC. Hovermarine owes NRDC and HD a total of £2.2 million.

Vosper says it will show a £1.5m loss of £1 million for the year to October 31, 1984 against a £1.5m profit in 1983/84 of £2.2 million. While trading remains difficult, the company says, the number of order inquiries with real potential has improved substantially in the last six months.

EEC mortgages proposal

EEC citizens should be allowed to use any building society or credit system in the community when they want to obtain a mortgage, the European Commission has decided.

It put forward proposals yesterday aimed at helping people to move from one home to another when buying a new home. It wants to see the scheme adopted by 1987.

The idea is that each country should recognize the existing systems in other countries.

Profits dip

Northern Foods has reported a slight dip in pretax profits which fell from £27.9 million to £27 million, the first decline for 10 years. Turnover also fell from £656.9 million to £612.7 million in the six months to September 30. An unchanged interim dividend of 4.25p is proposed.

Tempus, page 19

Tate gains

Tate & Lyle, raised pretax profits for the year ending September 29 by 21 per cent to £69.2 million. The sugar company also announced that it will pay £43.2 million (£36 million) for the Agri-Products Division of Beatrice Inc. The final dividend is 12.5p net.

Tempus, page 19

Flat cider

The cider business has gone somewhat flat for the Herefordshire producers. H. P. Bulmer, best known for the Strongbow and Woodpecker brands. Pretax profits for the half year to October fell by 22 per cent to £7.2 million. The interim dividend is being maintained at 2.24p. But the shares were down 10p at 154p. The Chancellor gets the blame for raising the excise duty on cider by 47 per cent in the last Budget.

Plants to close

Grove, Cranes, which exports cranes throughout the world, is to close two plants in Oxfordshire, with the loss of 400 jobs. The company says the plants in Oxford and Bicester will close by spring because of the recession in the mobile crane market.

BAe cleared on Airbus cover

By John Lawless

British Aerospace has failed to win government backing for the sale of 40 Tornado fighter aircraft to Britain's Nato ally, Turkey - but is, after all, to be given the insurance cover it needs to sell seven European Airbus three jetliners.

When Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, was being questioned by the Commons Trade and Industry Committee about the operations of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The committee had heard a complaint from Sir Raymond Lygo, managing director of British Aerospace, last week. He said that the sale of both aircraft was apparently being blocked by Treasury concern over Turkish creditworthiness, while the Department of Trade and Industry appeared ready to take a "more realistic" view.

The committee's chairman, Mr Kenneth Warren - MP for

Hastings and Rye, and an aeronautical engineer - said yesterday that he had been writing to Mrs Thatcher for two months about the Tornado deal.

It was worth \$1 billion (£833 million) in total, with British Aerospace having a 42.5 per cent share, in partnership with West German and Italian manufacturers.



Paul Channon: questioned by MPs

He said that the Prime Minister had now replied, saying that Turkey was "not a viable market" for the Tornado at the moment.

It was not clear whether a reply from Mrs Thatcher is confirmation of the Cabinet row over the deal which the aerospace industry believes has taken place over the deal. Specifically at issue is whether the Export Credits Guarantee Department (which reports to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) should be allowed to insure the deal for which the Treasury has a statutory responsibility to give its consent.

Mr Channon refused to be drawn on newspaper reports about the row, but said that Turkey had rescheduled debts worth £120 million, which will not now be paid until 1992.

The Government has now increased the Airbus insurance cover to 85 per cent.

Small firms draw £80m investment

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Investment in small businesses through the Business Expansion Scheme (BES) with its tax-relief incentives to individual investors amounted to about £80 million during 1983-84. Two-thirds of those benefiting were young start-up companies.

This emerged yesterday from a new Treasury analysis of BES progress. It means more investment has gone into small businesses via this route than was suggested last month by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor.

A total of £73 million was invested in 312 companies during this year, reflecting investments known so far, through approved investment funds. But at least a further 100 companies are now believed to have raised money directly from investors. These additional investments may have amounted to a further £5 million, according to the Treasury's latest Economic Progress Report.

Since the average level at which tax relief is given is running at about 50 per cent, the cost to the Inland Revenue in the year is likely to be about £40 million.

Two-thirds of companies involved in BES were start-up businesses less than five years old, the survey shows. The accounts for well over half of the total investments.

More than 40 per cent of all investments went to particularly young companies less than a year old.

The survey underlines the trend for investment through funds towards the upper end of the scale. The median amount for fund investment per company was £160,000 but for direct investment it was £40,000. Three-quarters of companies finding direct investments raised less than £100,000.

Economic Progress Report 173 November/December: EPR (Distribution), Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Liffe to launch trading in four new contracts

By Michael Prest

The London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday ended several months of City speculation about which direction it would take by giving details of a new futures contract and three options contracts.

A short-gilts futures contract will be introduced next year to complement the exchange's successful long-gilts futures contract.

At the same time Liffe is laying plans for sterling/dollar option on a physical currency and for options on the Life Eurodollar futures contract and on the Life long-gilt futures.

Mr Michael Jenkins, Liffe's chief executive, said that firm dates for introducing the contracts will be announced in January. June is a likely starting point and they could begin trading in fairly rapid succession.

The main organizational problem is accommodating options trading. A new clearing system will have to be agreed with the International Commodities Clearing House and new price displays and a new trading area will be necessary.

A survey of Liffe members, Mr Jenkins said, had shown 90 per cent in favour of launching options. The provision for physical delivery in the sterling/dollar option, as opposed to basing the contract on Liffe's existing futures contract, reflected members' wishes, he said.

It is expected by Liffe that the short-gilt, which will be a notional five years, although delivery could be of a gilt of between three and seven years, will be used by the new Stock Exchange primary dealers.

Pilkington seeks £105m

By Cliff Feltham

Pilkington Brothers, the glassmaker, is asking its shareholders for £104.8 million to help cut its borrowings and pay for new ventures, most likely in the United States.

Pilkington is offering one new share for every four already held at 255p. The shares, which have touched 351p this year on takeover talk, fell 7p to 298p.

At the same time Pilkington announced a sharp rise in its pretax profits for the six months to September, up from £30.4 million to £52.2 million.

But the group, based in St Helens, is still paying heavily for restructuring and redundancy costs, involving the loss of 500 jobs. Pilkington says a similar number of jobs are likely to disappear during the second half.

Tempus, page 19

Greycoat may bid for Churchbury

Greycoat City Offices today looks set to make a bid for Churchbury Estates, the property company set up by Mr Oliver Marjot. The shares in both companies were temporarily suspended after their request yesterday with both sides in waiting.

The market has long been expecting a takeover bid for Churchbury a situation, which Mr Marjot admitted was likely. Churchbury has rationalized the portfolio it acquired with its reverse takeover of Law Land in 1981 but it lacks the experience to undertake more development. It is something which Greycoat can do very well.

A takeover would allow the new company to expand its equity and profit base. Greycoat's interim figures are due today and brokers predict a doubling of pretax profits to £1.45 million with a gross dividend of 1p.

Commercial property, page 21

£800,000. The developer plans to build three high-technology buildings of 7,500 sq ft each, with the first floor finished to office standards. The joint agents, Richard Ellis and Conrad Ribot are hoping for rents of £8.50 a sq ft to be achieved once work is complete next August.

● Brixton Estate, which celebrated its diamond anniversary this week, has completed the first large redevelopment of its Acton Park Industrial Estate in west London, since it was bought by the company in 1963. Brixton has built 50,258 sq ft of industrial and warehouse property and has one unit already under offer. Brixton was able to redevelop the site by getting Lucas CAV, which still occupies a large amount of space on the estate, to surrender one of its leases. Rents for the new space through St Quintin, are from £3.78 a sq ft to £4.50 a sq ft.

● The Intercontinental Hotels Corporation and Grand Metropolitan have sold the Hotel Lotti in the Rue de Castiglione, Paris for more than £6 million. Jones Lang Wootton acting for the vendor, says that there is a strong demand for luxury hotels in Paris, as in London. The Lotti has been bought by Jolly Hotels, the Italian chain which intends refurbishing the hotel. Mr Robert Waterland, a partner in Jones Lang Wootton's Paris office, says that the boom in the hotel market reflects the competitive rate of the franc against other currencies, particularly the dollar. But, he adds, few of the international hotel operators are able to find the cash to invest in buying more hotels as capital is difficult to find.

● Sun Alliance's German subsidiary, Securitas-Gilde Lebensversicherung has bought a 20,000 sq ft office and retail

investment in the heart of Hamburg for close to DM 18 million (£4.83 million). Sun Alliance bought the property, at Neuer Wall 2-6 Jungfernstieg in the face of strong competition from German institutions. Retail tenants include Gold-Pfiff, whose lease expires at the end of the year, when Sun Alliance expects to see a significant reversion on the rent. Weatherall Green & Smith's Frankfurt office acted for Sun Alliance.

● FIRST UNION GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST: Results for the year to December 31 show net income after tax of £17.7 million (£7.9 million (£17.25 million). Earnings per share were 22.75 cents (£1.15 cents) and net asset value per share was 473 cents (458 cents). A dividend of 12 cents (10 cents) making 19 cents (16.5 cents) is being paid on January 18.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	922.8 (-7.8)
FT-A All Share	572.58 (-2.37)
FT Govt Securities	82.91 (-0.24)
FT-SE 100	1190.7 (-7.9)
Bargains	32,528
Dataseam USM	106.4 (-0.55)
Dow Jones	1177.78 (-0.55)
Nikkei Dow	11,382.34 (+131.51)
Hong Kong	1117.23 (-1.15)
Amsterdam	178.4 (-0.1)
Sidney AQ	721.3 (-2.5)
Frankfurt	1087.1 (-0.9)
Commerzbank	158.31 (-0.11)
General	180.8 (-0.1)
Paria: CAC	180.8 (-0.1)
Zurich	319.30 (-1.1)

GOLD

London fixing	\$327.50 pm \$324.50
close	\$324.50-\$325 (2270.25)
New York	\$324.50
Comex	\$328.10

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Centraway Trust	135 +35
Milford Docks	43 +9
Ass Brit Eng	10½ +1½
Dunston Grp	22½ +2½
Hallowood Grp	104 +11
Coates Bros	140 +18
Blue Arrow	107 +10
Brangran	57 +4½
MTD (Mangula)	12 +1
Applied Bot	6 +½
Tunstall Tel	330 +25
FALLS:	
Chynne Res	10 -2
Lifecare n/p	7 -1
Sumrie	73 -10
Intervin	27 -3
Intervin 7 per cent	27 -3
Selactiv	10 -1
Wit Nige	130 -13
Gerber En	55 -5
Eagle Corp	6 -½
Ass Hotels	3 -½
Nth Brit Steel	27 -2
Raybeck	27 -2
Nords Brick n/p	26 -2
Energy Res	359 -25

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1995 (unchanged)	
DM: 3.7015 (-0.0015)	
Sfr: 3.0630 (+0.0040)	
FF: 11.3505 (+0.0070)	
Yen: 285.50 (+0.30)	
Index: 74.5 (-0.2)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.1990	
DM: 3.0857	
Index: 142.8 (+0.3)	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 8½-9½%	
3-month interbank 9½%-9¾%	
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 9½%-9¾%	
US:	
Prime Rate 11.25-11.50%	
Federal Funds 8½%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8.20-8.10%	
Long bond 10½%-10¼%	

Preliminary announcement of results for the period ended 29th September 1984.

Six years of profit growth

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

THE CHAIRMAN, ROBERT HASLAM, REPORTS:

■ For the sixth successive year, pretax profits have increased. The Group pretax profits are a record £69.2 million—a rise of 21% over the previous year.

■ For the fourth successive year, the Group announces a dividend increase. The final dividend is 12.5p per share making a total for the year of 19.0p—a rise of 19%.

■ The dividend is covered 2.9 times by earnings and allows healthy dividend growth to be maintained in the future.

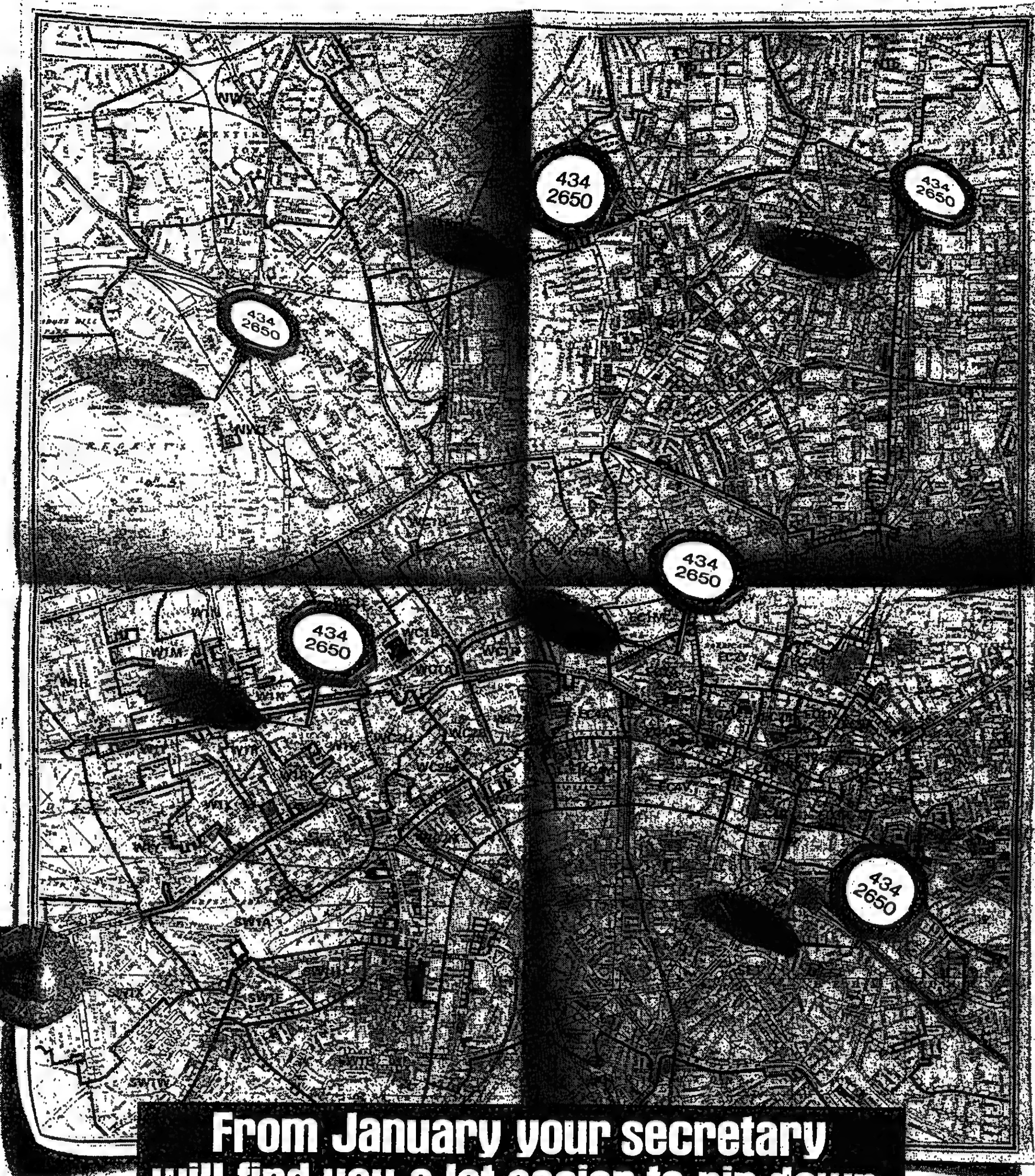
■ The Group's strong cash flow further strengthens the financial position.

■ Profit per employee has again increased—to £6,000 from £4,900—showing effective use of resources by our people.

	1984	1983
Turnover	£1,722m	£1,784m
Profit before tax	£69.2m	£57.3m
Profit after tax attributable to shareholders	£37.5m	£33.6m
Earnings per share	54.2p	59.5p
Dividends per share	19.0p	16.0p
Dividend cover	2.9 times	3.7 times

Copies of the Annual Report for the period ended 29th September 1984 will be mailed to shareholders shortly and will be available from:
C. P. McFie, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC,
Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street,
London EC3R 6DQ.

TATE
+ LYLE



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Motorola offers the widest range of portable and in-car phones. They are available now for use from January in London and progressively throughout the country later in the year and can be leased from as little as £12.03 per week. Which is a small price to ensure

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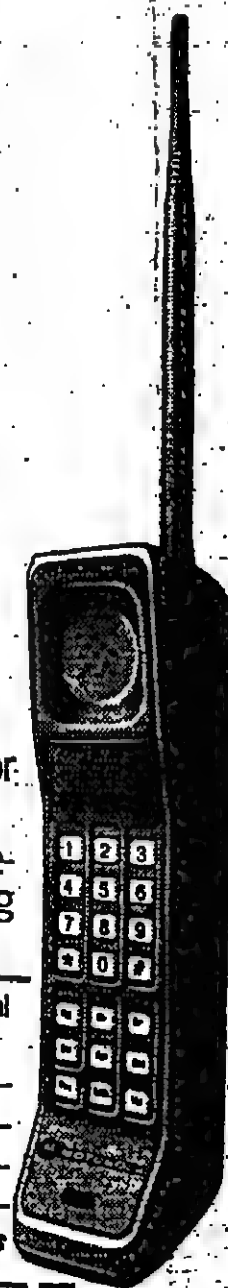
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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Market has busiest day since 1981 as BT investors cash in

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Small investors are rushing to cash in their British Telecom shares. Trading in them yesterday was the heaviest since the stock market's busiest day since April 1981.

But the selling was comfortably absorbed by institutional investors. The BT price closed just 1p lower at 95½p after touching 97½p. They are still offering the army of small investors who splashed out 50p for the partly paid shares a handsome profit.

All successful BT applicants should by now have received their allotment letters. Most arrived on Tuesday.

Since then the flow of selling has steadily increased. The level of stock market activity, as measured by the bargain count, was 40 per cent above the average level running before BT arrived.

Almost all the extra business is down to the most spectacular

Mr Jack Defries, chartered accountant and co. of the stock brokers, is not impressed by the behaviour of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries shares ahead of the interim results, due soon. He regards them as "a possible sale". S & N is expected to produce £36 million against £31.6 million. The shares closed at 130p.

new issue the stock market has ever witnessed.

But the BT excitement sapped the strength of the rest of the market yesterday. There was, nevertheless, some intriguing performers. One was Reed International.

It is fast becoming a stock market favourite, the shares gaining 20p in the past two days to reach a new peak of 524p. But there is much more to come according to City pundits.

Reed is now - after the sell-off of Mirror Group Newspapers - more an industrial holding company than a publishing group, although business publishing still provides company's biggest single chunk of earnings.

As a result, market men are beginning to think the historic price-earnings ratio of 9 is looking a little low. Analysts suggest a rating of 12 or 13 would be more appropriate, and not over-demanding.

At that sort of p/e, the share price would break through the 700p level.

A seminar for brokers last Monday helped focus attention on Reed, and the recent bout of takeover activity in the publishing sector has also caused analysts to examine the group closely.

The business magazines operation in the US has been going well, against the healthy background of strong economic growth there. Reed's success in America also appears to have brought US investors into the shares, with London market men hearing of sizable buying from that source.

US buying is in the background of the recent share price rise for Metal Box. The shares have risen 12p in the past two days to reach the previous best trading level of 378p.

Metal Box began pre-market trials of its Potainer soon in the US, and American investors have high hopes for the new product. The Potainer is a can made from PET, a type of plastic.

Takeover talk also surrounds the shares, with some speculators believing that Hapson Trust is building up a stake, with a view to making a bid. Market chat yesterday morning centred on an apparent single large buyer.

Another factor in the support for Metal Box is analysts' charts, which show the shares have broken through an important resistance level.

Turner & Newall slipped 3p to 106p as profit-takers moved in. The shares have been strong recently, pushing to a new high of 109p on Tuesday after a

recent meeting between the company and City analysts.

The industrial materials and engineering group has shown good recovery performance throughout this year, and are expected to do the same in 1985. Laing & Cruckshank the stockbroker, says profits for this year should reach £24-£25 million, against £20.3 million in 1983, and about £33 million next time.

Management Agency and Messie, the shoe business group which has branched into hotels and restaurants, rose 7p to 154p, making a 12p two-day gain. Chrystall, the privately-owned, entertainment business, has built up a 5 per cent shareholding. Queens Most Houses, the hotel group, has a 10.1 per cent stake.

About 750,000 shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, the seventh largest advertising agency in the world, were placed through the market yesterday by Phillips & Drew, stockbroker to the company. Part of the £6.75 million worth of stock came from holders who acquired shares during the recent acquisition of Hay Group. Saatchi shares slipped 10p as the stock came through, but by the close were just 3p down at 905p.

Comfort Hotels International held at 87p as latest bidders, Ladbrooke Group, acquired another 100,000 shares lifting its shareholding to 1.3 per cent. Rival bidders, Intasun, with a 14.9 per cent shareholding, held at 113p.

Shares of Cecil Gee, the men's retailer which came to the USM 18 months ago, shot up 20p to close at a new high of

185p on news of a possible bid approach.

The company took the unusual step of announcing a possible offer price at 160p. Market rumours that Habitat 67 might be the predator were scotched by Habitat.

Cecil Gee's first half profits to mid-July showed a 63 per cent rise to £332,000 and an extraordinary profit of £570,000 on the sale of the 14.5 per cent stake in James Walker, Goldsmith and Silversmith.

At the close the FT 30 share index was registering a 7.8 point fall at 922.3 points. The FT-SE share index fell 7.9 points at 1,190.7 points.

Both indices finished at their lowest levels of the day with the market still disconcerted by Tuesday's money supply figures. Away from Telecom trading was thin although there was the occasional pocket of activity, often prompted by price figures.

Both Becham Group and Glaxo Group were unsettled by worries about National Health Service cuts. Becham fell 13p to 365p and Glaxo eased 10p to 210.85p.

Government stocks were friendless, down by up to 2½p.

Share prices on the chemicals pitches are looking lively, with a variety of rumours doing the rounds. Coates Brothers provided most of yesterday's excitement, with a 13p rise to another new high of 140p after the group was written up in a City newsletter. Stockbrokers also visited Coates a week ago, since which time buying support for the shares has been strong.

BCC Group rose another 3p to 258p, as the shares steadily

recover ground lost ahead of last week's annual results.

Swire Pacific (Holdings), the industrial cleaning company headed by Mr David Evans, jumped 4½ to 57½ as rivals Hawley Group disclosed a 14.9 per cent shareholding.

Still on the cleaning pitch initial rose another 5p to 500p. Rumours persist that British Electric Traction will sell its 40.7 per cent shareholding as a springboard for a bid.

Johnson Matthey dipped 3p to 75p following the success of the rescue package. Charter Consolidated rose 3p to 186p on profits better than many had feared.

But H.P. Bulmer, the cider maker, tumbled 10p to 164p on a 22 per cent interim profits setback, a much weaker performance than anticipated.

Share prices among stores companies were pennies lower as profit-taking began following

Takeover speculation continues to surround Burnham Oil. The shares climbed a further 5p to 223p yesterday as the market contemplated suggestions that a Woolworth-style consortium bid is about to be launched. The rumoured price is 260p a share.

The recent strong run for the sector.

Recent retail sales figures and City hopes for a record selling season this Christmas had boosted prices, but yesterday there were losses of 1p to 5p among well-known names such as MFI, British Home Stores, and Marks and Spencer.

Dixons, recent victor in its bid for Curry's Group, fell 10p to 25p, and Boots slipped 9p to 189p, after yesterday's excitement about the high chair's opening of its 100th Cookshop store-within-a-store.

Baggeridge Brick advanced 14p to 216p on its 90 per cent profits growth. Stak's, the leisure group, improved 4p to 143p on its 58 per cent profit gain. And Northern Foods rose 6p to 212p on better than expected results. However Tate and Lyle, the sugar group which failed to win the Brooke Bond food group and is now spending £36 million on American expansion, eased a few coppers to 443p after its figures.

TEMPUS

Spending spree for Pilkington

Five years after asking shareholders to put up £60 million, Pilkington the glass-maker from St Helens is back again, this time for £104 million.

Leaving aside the opportunistic timing of the cash call, interest centres on what Pilkington intends to do with the money. Half-year profits show a marked upturn with the British side continuing its recovery, and after British Telecom the stock market is ready to absorb an issue of this size, the fourth largest this year.

Pilkington is recognized as a conservative company, and its expressed desire to reduce its borrowings seems straightforward, although it is out of focus with market sentiment which does not view the existing debt position in too bad a light.

It also speaks of acquisition possibilities in the United States where it has invested "10 million dollars so far" in expanding its electro-optical business. This seems the most likely route for its cash.

It insists it has no present plans to raise its 30 per cent stake in Libbey-Owens-Ford, the second largest glassmaker in the US. It could go for broke but this would probably swallow up the proceeds of the rights issue twice over.

Meanwhile, latest figures reflect better trading in Britain although more redundancy costs are still in the pipeline, but the full impact of the setback in South Africa has probably still to be felt.

The impression remains that Pilkington is still struggling to

find its way with shareholders being asked to pay the fare to get there. A lot of uncertainty overhangs the shares.

Northern Foods

Northern Foods has suffered its first fall in profits since 1974. However, the downturn had been anticipated and interim pretax profits of £27 million, down just £900,000, were, if anything, better than expected and the shares added another 6p to close at 213p.

The main problems came from the liquid milk activities where the 1p increase on a pint arrived three months later than expected. With margins squeezed and volumes falling, profits were bound to decline.

Deregulation of milk pricing from January 1 should allow the group to keep prices closer aligned to costs in future.

The group still has a very firm foundation in the shape of two key customers, Marks and Spencer in the United Kingdom and the McDonalds hamburger chain in the US.

The halt in profits growth is temporary and the group should make about £27 million in the full year. While short-term prospects for the shares and the group are far from exciting, on a longer-term view it is a much more attractive proposition.

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find its way with shareholders being asked to pay the fare to get there. A lot of uncertainty overhangs the shares.

With net cash of £28 million Tate can take the strain. A return on capital of 20 per cent generates funds to pursue the present policy of modest and complementary acquisitions.

The full year's dividend of 19p net, an increase of 1p per cent, puts the shares on a 6 per cent yield at last night's price of 443p.

Fears that next year's tax changes could be £40 million, against £23.3 million depressed the share price. Against that the five new acquisitions should add £55 million a year to earnings soon. What the market is still awaiting, however, is a substitute for Brooke Bond.

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Fears that next year's tax changes could be £40 million, against £23.3 million depressed the share price. Against that the five new acquisitions should add £55 million a year to earnings soon. What the market is still awaiting, however, is a substitute for Brooke Bond.

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UNIT TRUSTS: LIFE ASSURANCE: PENSIONS: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

City office lettings show signs of revival

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Brixton Estate, which celebrated its diamond jubilee on Tuesday, has let 55,000 sq ft of its 85,000 sq ft office building in Finsbury Square on the edge of the City to Marine Midland Bank for about £19 a sq ft.

The American bank is taking space in the refurbished building which Brixton bought from the Legal & General Assurance Society for £8.5 million.

The former Argent House was put on the market by L & G for £11 million but the Assurance company eventually sid at the lower figure.

Brixton has spent an undisclosed amount on bringing the building up to modern requirements. The company hopes to obtain £20 a sq ft for the remaining space.

Elsewhere in the City, closer to the Bank of England, there are signs of a revival in the office market for the banking sector. Wates City of London Properties which came to the stockmarket in September is about to let its 10,575 sq ft development at 10, Philip Lane to John Poland & Co., a Lloyds managing agent. Wates has spent £2 million on rebuilding the offices and values the scheme at £4.65 million once completed and let. The asking rent through St Quintin and Montague Evans is £30 a sq ft.

A similar level of rent was asked but probably not achieved on Cornhill House, a project developed by the Airways Pension Fund and the Worshipful Company of Grocers at 68/69 Cornhill. The Girocentrale Bank of Vienna is taking the space in the £4.5 million refurbished accommodation.

And the European Banking Corporation's 20,000 sq ft of space in 150 Leadenhall Street is under offer, all signs of the upturn in the upturn in the letting market in the core of the City.

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Mercantile Texas Corporation and Southwest Bancshares, Inc. merged on 10th October, 1984 to form MCorp, a bank holding company with sixty five member banks in Texas and fifty nine non-bank subsidiaries throughout the United States. With combined total assets approaching US\$20 billion at 30th June, 1984, MCorp would have ranked twenty-second largest bank in the United States and third in Texas on that date.

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13th December, 1984

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Time for investors to diversify

By Judith Huntley

Rising yields do not bode well for portfolios heavily weighted in the industrial sector

Institutional money is leaving property and yields are rising. At last a streak of sanity is returning to the property world as fund managers see other forms of investment showing better returns.

For the first time in recent history average yields on industrial property have reached the same level as the return on gilts. This trend, which looks set to continue for some time, has far reaching implications, particularly for those property companies with portfolios heavily weighted in the industrial sector.

The office sector too, with a few exceptions in the City of London, has not been turning in such a good performance. Average yields are at their highest for seven years with the South-east, the Midlands and the North of England showing the sharpest rises. Even in the hotspot of the market - the retail property - average yields have remained flat, falling only in a few isolated cases.

It is not just average yields that are going up. Prime yields are also rising as the lack of rental growth over the last few years is reflected in the market place. The weight of institutional investment in property has been keeping the market from sinking. Some would argue that institutions have pushed yields to the point where they were too low to be

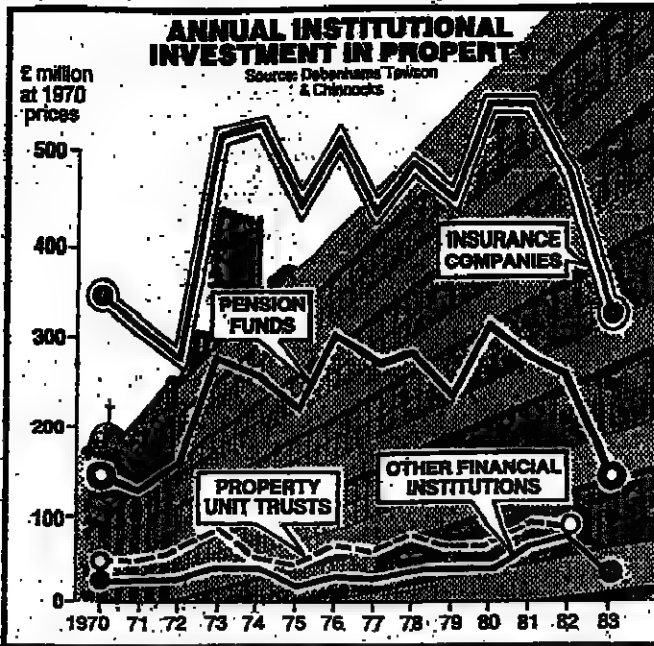
justifiable on rental growth performance.

The Hillier Parker and Investors' Chronicle research for November shows that the average yield for all property rose to 7 per cent - an increase of 0.25 per cent on the August level. Offices and industrial property accounted for this situation, while shops merely remained unchanged. Prime yields also went up to 5.1 per cent, from 4.8 per cent six months ago.

Capital values fell for all property by 2.8 per cent over the period. Industrial property saw capital values plummet by 8 per cent, with the retail sector holding up best on a rise of 5.2 per cent.

Hillier Parker says that investors are still concentrating on the retail sector - a trend confirmed by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks' latest report on institutional investment. But the rise in average yields highlights the fact that investors are still, quite rightly, doubtful about property's performance. One reason put forward by Hillier Parker is the rapid growth in equity dividends which are forecast to outstrip rental growth for some time to come.

Debenham Tewson argues that we are now entering a new phase, with the emphasis switching to rationalizing institutional portfolios, a phrase which has become only too familiar as property sales by pension funds and insurance companies come to light. During 1983, net investment in commercial property fell by 25 per cent to £1.5 billion.



On the other hand, sales have become an important source of funds to institutions, rising from 17 per cent in 1981 to 60 per cent last year, relative to new investment. Cash-flow to the institutions, last year rose by 7 per cent, but investment patterns showed a shift to Government securities and liquid assets.

With rents static, yields rising and institutional money going into alternative forms of investment, it does not bode well for the asset value of property companies whose portfolios are weighted towards the industrial or the office sector outside the City and parts of London. Unless these companies shift their portfolio weighting, or venture into other kinds of development, they may find there is a downward valuation

in the portfolio - or that existing valuations are far too high.

The letting market shows no sign of any real improvement, other than for a few kinds of high-quality property. Office and industrial hybrids in certain parts of the South-east are in demand and companies with these in their portfolios will see some rental growth, but elsewhere the lack of demand is revealing only too well how marginal property can become.

The level of inflation can no longer hide deficiencies in property and the impact of depreciation and obsolescence are painfully clear. The message to investors must be to diversify a portfolio weighted too heavily in one direction and to come to grips with managing assets before they become liabilities.

Ludgate Hill bomb site plans in ruins

It is back to square one in the Square Mile. The City's politicians have overthrown the advice of their planners and architects on the brief for one of the last remaining City bomb sites still undeveloped. The site, at Ludgate Hill, has attracted much interest from developers. But they have had to wait until the City Corporation decided what kind of development it

would allow. The whole of the site can be developed for offices and the recommendation that the scale of new buildings be kept to that of the existing ones, has been overruled. The corporation wants to see high-quality offices at Ludgate Hill and is removing some of the restrictions it feels will deter developers from coming up with the right kind of scheme.

The Arab Banking Corporation is talking to Commercial Union Assurance about buying No 1 Moorgate in the City, but neither side would confirm that a deal has been struck. The office building has belonged to Commercial Union for some time and was formerly occupied by it. New office space is being provided behind the facade of the existing building.

Six firms of chartered surveyors have banded together to sponsor a new property investment data bank. Chestertons, Cluttons, Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, Drivers Jonas, Savills and Weatherall Green & Smith have commissioned the consultants Roger Lym & Partners to process information from institutional portfolios

Court of Appeal Law Report December 13 1984 Court of Appeal

When leave is necessary for appeal from official referee

Giles Electrical Engineers Ltd v Plessey Communications Systems Ltd. Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd. (Judgment delivered December 5)

The circumstances in which leave was required to appeal from a decision of an official referee was governed by the same principles which applied to appeals from a High Court judge.

The Court of Appeal so stated in refusing the defendant leave to appeal from an interlocutory decision of Judge Hawson, QC, sitting as official referee.

Mr Frederick Philpott for the defendant; Mr Richard Fernyhoough for the plaintiff.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that a problem had arisen concerning appeals from an interlocutory decision of an official referee. Clearly any right of appeal from an official referee was limited

by Order 58, rule 4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The problem arose because of the decision in *Technistudy Ltd v Kelland* ([1976] 1 WLR 1042) where it was held that leave to appeal from an official referee was not required on a point of law even if the order sought to be appealed from was interlocutory in nature.

When *Technistudy* was decided section 31 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925 was in force and section 31(1)(i) of that Act provided that no appeal should lie without the leave of the judge or the Court of Appeal from any interlocutory order. The reason for the decision in the *Technistudy* case was that an official referee was not a "judge" within the meaning of section 31(1)(i).

In 1977 the Rules of the Supreme Court were amended (SI 1977 No 532) and section 31 of the 1925 Act applied as if an official referee were a judge of the High Court. The effect of the amendment meant that

Technistudy was no longer applicable.

Any doubt about that was dispelled by section 18(1)(b) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 (which replaced section 31 of the 1925 Act) which did not confine the subject matter of that subsection to a judge but extended it to a "court or tribunal". Whatever was said about an official referee he clearly came within the meaning of a "court or tribunal".

Leave to appeal was required in exactly the same circumstances as that which applied to a judge of the High Court. The present case was clearly an interlocutory matter and it was conceded that leave to appeal was required.

If leave to appeal would not be required from a High Court judge, it would not be required from an official referee.

Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Herbert Oppenheimer, Nathan & Vandyk, Messrs.

Fiat is not required for a charge

Regina v Elliott. Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Glidwell. (Judgment delivered December 4)

Section 63 (1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1982, which provided that "Proceedings for a crime under the (Explosive Substances Act 1883) shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Attorney General", should be interpreted as meaning that such proceedings were instituted when a person came to court to answer the charge. Accordingly, when a person was charged with offences under the 1883 Act in April 1983, but the Attorney General's fiat was not given until June, the proceedings were not thereby rendered null and void.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Trevor Elliott against his conviction on November 23, 1983 at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Beaumont) of offences contrary to sections 2 and 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883. He pleaded guilty to one count of making explosives, and was sentenced to a total of three years' youth custody.

Mr John T. Milford assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr R. P. Lowden for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that it was submitted for the appellant, on the authority of *R v Brentnall* [1979] RTR 155, that the commencement or institution of proceedings occurred when a person was charged, and that since the appellant had been charged before the Attorney General gave his consent, thereafter all the proceedings must have been a nullity.

A very different set of circumstances was under consideration in that case and that was a decision of the Divisional Court not the Court of Appeal.

In the present situation it was important also to have regard to the provisions of section 6(2) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1979 which, counsel for the Crown submitted, plainly envisaged that the absence of the consent of the Attorney General should not prevent an arrest or charge.

There was no direct authority upon the matter, and their Lordships concluded that section 63 of the Administration of Justice Act 1982 should be interpreted as meaning that proceedings were instituted at the time when a person attended the court to answer the charge. To hold otherwise would be to ignore the provisions of section 6 of the 1979 Act.

Solicitors: Director of Public Prosecutions.

Amateurs in science on the bench

Dawson v Lunn. Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough. (Judgment delivered November 30)

Where it was necessary for a court to determine whether alcohol consumed after ceasing to drive or in charge of a vehicle had caused the amount of alcohol in the motorist's body to exceed the prescribed limit it would always be necessary for the motorist to call expert medical or scientific evidence in order to discharge the burden of proof which lay on him, unless the non-expert evidence called was such as to enable the court reliably and confidently to reach a sensible conclusion without expert evidence.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated allowing an appeal by the prosecutor, Mr Herbert Dawson, from a decision of Colchester Justices to dismiss an information laid against Mr Derek Lunn, alleging that he had driven with excess alcohol in his body, on the basis that the defendant had satisfied them that alcohol taken after he had ceased to drive had taken him over the limit.

Mr Andrew Collins for the prosecutor; Mr John Boothby for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the justices had reached their decision after considering and drawing conclusions from an extract from the *British Medical Journal* which had been handed to them by the defendant, the prosecutor not having objected, without any expert witnesses being called.

The case vividly illustrated the danger of justices, or judges for that matter, dabbling as amateurs in science without the assistance of qualified witnesses.

While there were no doubt some cases where the weight of the non-expert evidence called by the defendant was such that justices could conclude, confidently and reliably that he had discharged the burden of proof, there were many cases where they could not sensibly

draw that conclusion themselves. The dictum of Lord Widgery in *Pugsley v Hunter* ([1973] RTR 284, 290), which concerned the "laced drinks" defence, was equally applicable to such a case as this where the facts were not obvious from the non-expert evidence.

Mr Justice McCullough agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr J. J. Goodwin, Chelmsford; Aughterson, Keeble & Passmore, Colchester.

Maximum term is limit

Regina v Michel. Where a fine with a substantial term of imprisonment in default was imposed, in the absence of proof of means to pay, on a defendant who had also been given the maximum sentence of imprisonment for the offence, the fine was quashed, as the effect of the term of imprisonment in default would be to carry the total period of imprisonment well above the permissible maximum.

While there was, in principle, nothing wrong in fining a defendant at the same time as making a criminal bankruptcy order, there would be relatively few cases in which it would be right to do so. The criminal bankruptcy order gave the victim of a fraud a potential remedy, and might, in fact, deprive the defendant of the means to pay a fine.

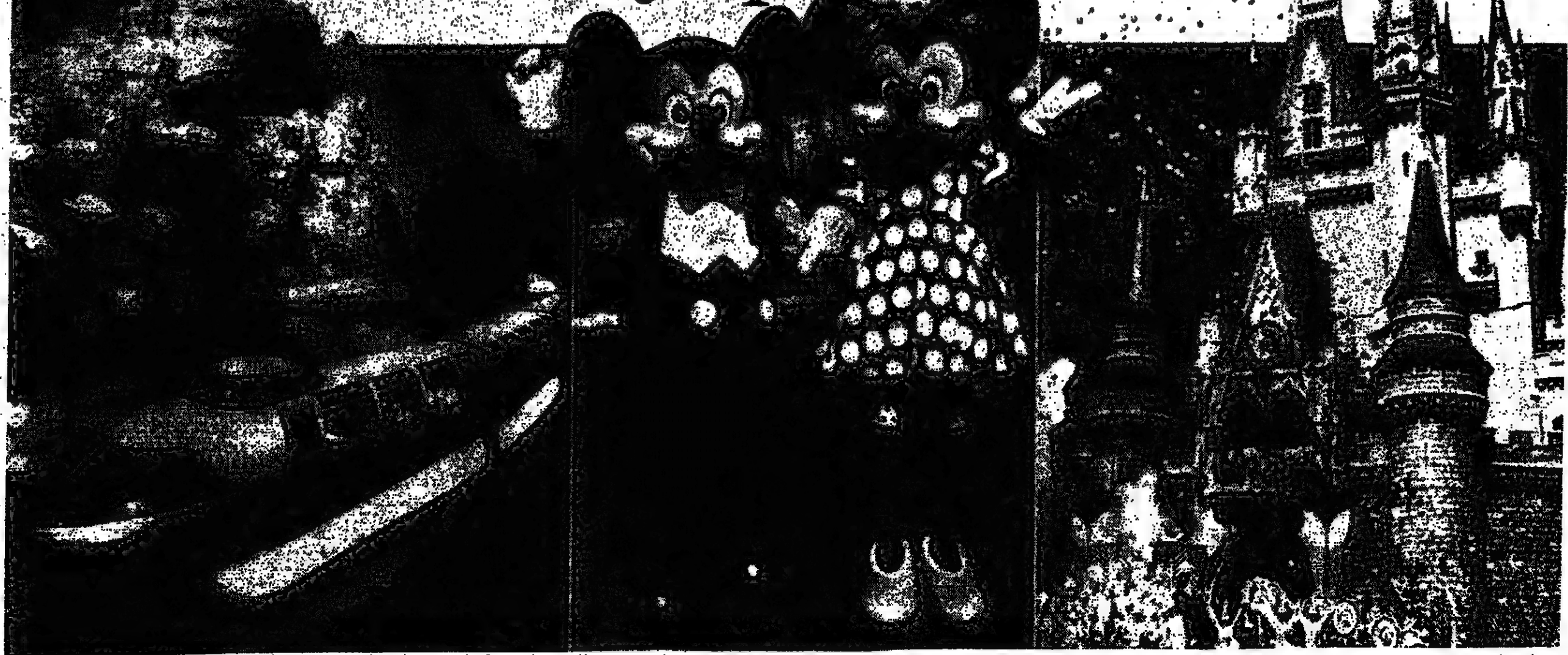
The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Purchas, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Bingham) so held on November 30,

when considering appeals against sentences imposed at the Central Criminal Court (Judge Sutcliffe, QC) for conspiring to contravene the provisions of section 38(1) of the Finance Act 1972, and being knowingly concerned in taking steps with a view to the fraudulent evasion of value-added tax.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that although the maximum term of imprisonment for the offences was wholly inadequate in view of the massive criminality involved, the effect of adding sentences in default of payment to the maximum terms was indefensible.

The making of a criminal bankruptcy order gave injured parties a comprehensive and far-reaching means of obtaining satisfaction and it was inappropriate in the present case to impose fines alongside a criminal bankruptcy order for over £14 million specifying the Customs and Excise as the injured party.

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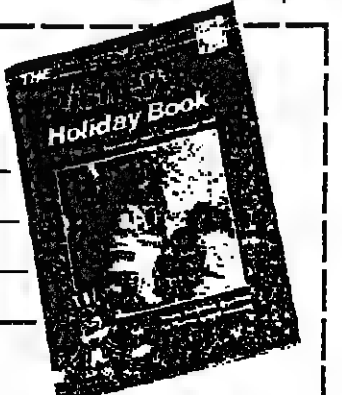
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1984 High	Low	Share	Price	Dividend	Yield
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General Appointments

PROJECT LEADERS Support our future developments

LONDON/MANCHESTER c. £18,000

The new Woolworth Management Services function will have a major impact on the profitability and efficiency of our Company.

As part of our strategy we need to recruit Project Leaders who have experience of specification and implementation of computer solutions to difficult business problems in a large company environment. Since you will control a small team you should be adept at getting results through people and managing the user interface. You should also have a thorough understanding of the potential of computer technology with a changing business environment.

As Project Leader you will be responsible for a range of projects which contribute to the development of large scale systems. Projects are undertaken from feasibility to implementation within time and budgetary targets.

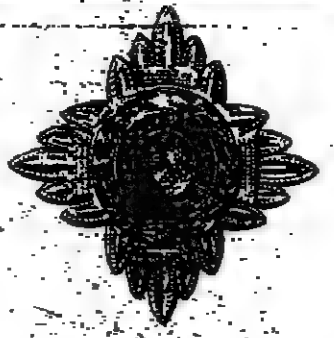
Our ideal candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of three years experience of applications development in a sophisticated JCL or IBM environment. This experience should include technical specification and the production of functional specifications.

We require Project Leaders on two sites, either London or Manchester. Our career opportunities are excellent, leading to a variety of appointments at a more senior level.

Rewards are excellent with salaries in the range of £14,000 - £21,000 together with a wide range of benefits and relocation expenses where appropriate.

To apply, please contact:
Jane Sedler (Management Services Personnel)
F.W. Woolworth plc, 242-244 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6JL. Telephone: 01-262 1222 ext. 2014

Future by
WOOLWORTH



A Commission in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The WRAC currently have vacancies on their next Officer training course starting in September 1985 at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The selection procedures are starting now.

The Corps is looking for young women who want a more unusual and challenging career, which could take them anywhere in the UK, or abroad, serving alongside their male colleagues.

Successful applicants will initially be offered a 3 year Short Service Commission, with the possibility of extending to a Regular Commission at a later date.

If you are between 17-29 years old and have, ideally, 2 A-levels, or a degree, please write for further details to Lieutenant Colonel Joan Johnstone MBE, WRAC, Corps Recruiting and Liaison Officer, Department J13, The Keep, Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6PN. (N.B. Tell her your date of birth and the qualifications you have or expect.)

MAJOR SALES OPPORTUNITY LINEAR MOTION

The International SKF Group is the world market leader in ball and roller bearings, and one of Europe's leading manufacturers and suppliers of special steel and cutting tools.

As part of its diversification policy, the Group is rapidly expanding its product range relating to linear motion, and now seeks a top flight Sales Engineer to develop further the large market potential, and to achieve the growth plan. The product range includes ball and roller screws, electro-mechanical actuators, linear bearings and shafting, and this is about to be extended still further to incorporate other concepts of linear motion.

The position requires a hunter, a professional aged 30-45 years, with an Engineering Degree or equivalent qualification and some years 'on the road' experience, preferably in the sale of linear products.

A demanding post in which an able performer can anticipate significant career progression.

An attractive salary related to experience, a Company car and an excellent contributory pension and Life assurance scheme are offered, plus conditions of employment appropriate to a large multi-national Organisation.

Applicants, male or female, should write or telephone for an application form or send a full c.v. to: Mr J.J. McCarthy at the address shown below.



SKF (U.K.) Limited,
Sundon Park Road,
Luton,
Bedfordshire,
LU3 3BL.
Tel: Luton (0582) 575977

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Further expansion demands that we appoint another dynamic and enthusiastic achiever. You will be either an experienced recruiter or a graduate with a background in Sales, Accountancy, Finance or Law.

Preferred age 23-30. Package £12,000 - £15,000 + motivation and ability will yield a high basic salary, bonus scheme and career prospects within a developing group.

If you would like to work in a professional but entrepreneurial environment write or telephone in confidence

Brian Ingram, Managing Director,
Ingram Recruitment,
70/71 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DG
01-629 3555

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Well established and rapidly expanding Company operating specialised tours for North American visitors to UK seeks assistant manager to start in January. The successful candidate will be a good administrator, as well as being able to look after and motivate a team of guides. Car driver desirable. Non-smoker preferred.

Salary of £18,000 pa.

P.P.P. Apply in writing with full C.V. to:-
The Manager,
Road 11 Bell Tower Ltd,
18 Queens Street,
Mayfair, W1.

TELE SALES MANAGER

Basic £11,000 + Commission

Leading to dealing in office technology need a person with previous sales experience. Must be capable of recruiting, training and supervising staff. Extremely challenging and rewarding position with excellent promotional prospects.

Phone Chris James, 240 5211
STAFFPLAN REC CONS.

EXPERIENCED COCOA PLANTATION MANAGERS

Vacancies exist in Papua New Guinea for Managers who have estate development and administrative backgrounds and a proven ability to handle human resources.

Apply in writing to: General Manager,
Coconut Products, PO Box 84, Rabaul,
Papua New Guinea.

Closing date for Police Graduate Entry Scheme January 25th.

Because of the complex problems of today's society the Police have an increasing need for highly qualified men and women.

The 'Graduate Entry Scheme' is designed for people considered to have the potential for accelerated promotion to the rank of Inspector and beyond early in their career.

You may apply if you are a graduate, or in the final year of any full-time degree course. You must also be under 30 years and meet the physical requirements.

To discover more about a Police career, and salary levels contact your Careers Adviser or send in this coupon. But don't delay.

Final closing date for applications is 25th January 1985.

To: Supt. John Harris BA, Room 553, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Please send me your booklet on Careers for Graduates in the Police.

Name _____ Address _____

University/College _____ Age _____

My Degree Course _____ Ends _____

POLICE OFFICER

IF YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO OFFER US, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO OFFER YOU.

International Appointments

VACANCY

We are a subsidiary company of one of the largest German groups of the steel industry and are engaged in the planning, design and construction of industrial plants as well as in the realization of infrastructural measures, with emphasis on projects abroad.

We intend to strengthen our Translation Department by employing another qualified

TECHNICAL TRANSLATOR

who speaks English as his native language but also has a good knowledge of German.

Acquaintance with other professional terminology is desirable, but not essential.

Several years' practical experience as a technical translator and a technical basic training would be an advantage.

The salary offered for this position is consistent with the required qualifications.

Other benefits include the social service and security payments usual in German large-scale enterprises.

Please address your application with the usual data to our Personnel Department.

Salzgitter Industriebau GmbH
Personalabteilung
Postfach 41 11 69
3320 Salzgitter 41
Federal Republic of Germany

SKI GUIDES

BASI qualified or similar required for the winter season in the French Alps.

Ring 01-699 7666,
Extension 232

Public Appointments

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Assistant Finance Officer (ADM 1)

to work at the London-based International Secretariat. The Assistant Finance Officer is responsible for all aspects of Amnesty International's financial management, including the preparation of accounts, assessment of contributions and maintenance of the sales ledger control accounts. In addition, she/he is responsible for the accounting of special funds such as fund-raising projects and the operation of the Amnesty International fund-raising scheme. Candidates should be qualified accountants with experience of computer-based systems.

Salary £9,500 (index-linked).

For application form and job specification contact: The Personnel Officer, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DL, or ring 01-533 1771, ext. 51456.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms 4th January, 1985.

SALES EXECUTIVES and Recruitment Consultants

£15,000-£20,000 inc.

The P.P.P. group is a successful recruitment consultancy with a high reputation within the computer, high technology, sales and services sectors.

Continued growth has produced a seven figure turnover with twenty-five active consultants based from our two London offices.

To sustain our London expansion and to develop a new Thames Valley venture, we are now seeking three energetic and ambitious sales executives who will develop their sales and business skills in one of the expanding areas of recruitment.

You should be in your early/mid thirties, have a strong presence and other experience in recruitment or as an outstanding sales person.

We will give you any training necessary, an excellent earnings package and an absorbing and rewarding career.

For an early meeting contact Colin Hough or Andrew Rutherford on 01-438 1804 to 1806.

20 Kensington Church Street, London W8 6EP

Sports & Health Club Central London

Full time + part time PE Personal trainers to work in private club.

Reply to Box 1401 L, The Times.

MEDIA

Representative required for Trade publication (Book). Must have previous experience and own car. Good opportunities. £14,000 neg.

Please ring 01-561 6381.

OIL SECRETARY/TYPIST £6,500+

A state oil agency of a middle east country requires an efficient secretary in its London office to work in its busy research section.

In addition to general secretarial skills applicants must be able to use a word processor (preferably IBM). Good shorthand as well as an interest in world affairs will be a definite asset but are not essential.

The right candidate has a good opportunity for personal development and future prospects.

Please ring Mrs Eaves on 01-629 8080 or send cv particulars to General Petroleum and Mineral Services, 129 Park Lane, London W1. For the attention of Mrs G. Eaves.

Editorial & Information

Senior Editorial & Information post with Professional body. Likely to suit good honours graduates (or equivalent) with meticulous standards & organisational drive & seeking post with substantial job satisfaction. Relevant experience, including proof reading & instructing printers is essential.

Interesting & varied work including responsibility for monthly publication containing health service professional news & articles. Information duties mainly related to careers & membership enquiries. Appointment will be within the salary range:

£8,000 - £10,000.

Apply, marking envelope 'Confidential' to:
General Secretary,
Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences,
12 Queen Anne Street,
London W1M 0AU.

HOTEL SALES MANAGER required

Delux hotel in Dubai requires a Sales Manager with a good track record in the Hotel Industry.

Excellent salary package and conditions for right applicant.

Telephone 01-747 1608

PUBLIC NOTICES

Steel Wire Fencing Monopoly Investigation

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, has asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the supply of steel wire fencing in the United Kingdom, and determine whether a monopoly situation exists.

The inquiry will look into all aspects of the steel wire fencing market including the distribution and pricing policies related to the products.

If you - or any organisation to which you belong - have any evidence or views likely to help the Commission in their inquiry please write to:

The Secretary,
Monopolies and Mergers Commission,
New Court, Carey Street, London, WC2A 2JT.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

SPECIAL PERSON

Male or female for Kensington family, who don't want conventional nanny to give long-term help with 2 boys, 9 months & 5 1/2 years. Daily pay, but occasional overtime available if necessary. Must be flexible, car driver, reasonably familiar with London, non-smoker, ultra clean, willing to share car and fit in with our standards. Any nationality but good English essential. Generous salary.

Apply in writing plus c.v. to:
Catherine Murray, Bladen Lanes, 66/68 Palace Road, London SW15 1EP.

BUTLER (USA)

Unusual opportunity - senior CC, 15 years exp. in hotel industry, USA, to be completed spring 1985. Must be a native born, well motivated, and experienced individual with a proven track record in the hotel industry. Salary negotiable. Tel: 259 5012.

Greek Speaking Hotel Manager

Well known hotel in Greece seeks experienced hotel manager to take over the hotel in January 1985. Must be able to speak Greek and English well. Hotel salary negotiable. Tel: 259 5012.

WORKING COUPLE

Need couple to help with housework. From Jan 1 to look after 2 children & a dog. Must be able to cook for 2 adults. Tel: 259 5012.

TEMPORARY CHRISTMAS COOK

Well known hotel in Greece seeks experienced hotel manager to take over the hotel in January 1985. Must be able to speak Greek and English well. Hotel salary negotiable. Tel: 259 5012.

HOUSEWORKERS

Need couple to help with housework. From Jan 1 to look after 2 children & a dog. Must be able to cook for 2 adults. Tel: 259 5012.

Universiteit van Amsterdam

The Department of Mathematics of the University of Amsterdam invites applicants for the position of

Professor of mathematical logic (m/f) with tenure.

Vacancy number T. 8762.

Applicants should have an extensive knowledge of and research experience in the field of mathematical logic and its applications, as evidenced by a doctoral thesis and papers in refereed journals. A proven interest in applications of logic, also outside mathematics, is required.

Duties include:

- teaching of mathematical logic to students in mathematics, computer science and philosophy
- participation in and conducting, stimulating and co-ordinating research in mathematical logic and its applications in computer science and philosophy of language
- participating in administration and organization on behalf of the Logic Group and the Department of Mathematics
- promotion of interdisciplinary co-operation.

Applicants must be willing to acquire a sufficient working knowledge of the Dutch language, within two years of taking up the appointment.

Applicants are requested, quoting vacancy number, to send a curriculum vitae, list of publications and the names of three references - before January 15th - to the Chairman of the Appointments Committee, Prof. Dr. A.S. Troelstra, Department of Mathematics, University of Amsterdam, Roeterstraat 15, 1018 WB Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Telephone 20-522 2298 / 522 3081.

Women in particular are invited to apply.

The Logic Group ("Vakgroep Logica en Grondslagen van de Wiskunde") is part of both the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Philosophy. There exists a special research group "Logic and Philosophy of Language". Research subjects of the Logic Group are: Constructivism, Intensional logic, Set theory and Model theory, Logical semantics and Pragmatics. Research in Theoretical Computer Science is carried out in the Department of Computer Science. The appointee is expected to extend his own research specialism in collaboration with the present staff in the departments mentioned above.

The appointment will be made in the Faculty of Sciences ("Faculteit der Wiskunde en Natuurwetenschappen") and also in the Department of Philosophy ("Centrale Interfacultair").

Gross salary depends on age and experience and ranges from Dfl. 6,364,- to Dfl. 9,005,- per month (Dutch Civil Servants Code).

La creme de la creme also on page 26

Receptionist £7,500 pa

Young firm of Technical Publishers with retail site in W2 area require lively, intelligent person to operate switchboard, sell books, answer customer queries and generally ensure the smooth running of an office. 'A' levels and typing essential.

Contact Caroline Lees on
01-262 1616

IN CONFERENCE £210,000

Are you a competent, self-motivated individual with a flair for organisation? A professional Conference Manager is sought for a leading, professional PA/Office Co-ordinator to work closely with their Conference Manager. You will be responsible for running a going, dynamic team of secretaries and office staff through administrative, back-up, the ability to establish a rapport with clients and senior executive managers in Europe and the Far East is essential. Previous experience in a conference organisation would be advantageous. Salary of 100,000.

Age 27-40

Tel: 01-496 1811

Senior Secretaries

General Appointments

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your career in
one direction**

Selling with IBM

Probably the hardest thing about doing well in your career is knowing when you could be doing that much better - changing direction as a sales professional with IBM, for example. Because no matter how or where you're making a name for yourself now, if you're prepared to make the move, there could be an even bigger future ahead...

To help you go beyond your current success, we'll provide a first class sales and product training together with vital back-up support. You'll be dealing with people at all levels, and from all walks of commercial life - selling a wide range of computers and business

**Now take
another**

systems where the contracts involved are often worth millions of pounds.

It's a career where the considerable professional and financial rewards are a direct result of your own efforts and commitment. For someone of your ability, isn't this the direction you should be taking?

If you're a graduate in your mid twenties to early thirties, and you want to know more about our opportunities throughout the UK, phone or write to Kate Dawson, Recruitment Officer, IBM United Kingdom Limited, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL. Tel: 01-995 1441 extension 4976. Please quote ref: T/11940



- 16,000 jobs in over 40 UK locations
- Two manufacturing plants
- Development laboratory near Winchester
- An equal opportunity employer
- £745 million exports in 1983
- £146 million invested in UK in 1983

IBM

Managing Director

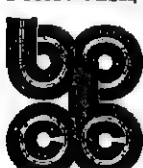
Waterlow Publishers Limited

After considerable investment this prestigious publishing company is ready for further development and consolidation of recent growth.

Waterlow is London based and active in the financial, legal and professional world and has a diverse list of products which includes the Solicitors and Barristers Directory and Diary, the R.L.C.S. yearbook "Financial Weekly", "Banking World" and a range of books, legal software and law forms. It also provides a law agency service and holds the Law Courts printing contract.

- The successful candidate will -
- be experienced in product development through marketing and sales
- be aware of electronic publishing's potential
- have production experience of, or involvement with, a significant print-production budget
- have experience of marketing and managing new products at a senior level and wide publishing experience in relevant markets
- be able to establish and achieve strict internal budgeting objectives

A competitive remuneration package with a salary range between £20,000 and £30,000 is available. Applications should specifically address these needs, show how they are met and be addressed to: Peter Bouch, at



British Printing & Communication Corporation PLC
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Oxford OX3 0BW

Investment Executive

Glasgow

c. £18,000

VENTURE CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

The Scottish Development Agency is one of the leading venture capital investors in the U.K.

In association with other sources of public and private funds, the Agency makes equity and long term loan investments in Scottish companies to promote new technological projects, finance management buy-outs and start-up businesses, as well as assisting the viable expansion plans of existing Scottish companies.

In the interesting position of Investment Executive, you will appraise and give advice on investment proposals from various sources, with emphasis on assessing the capabilities of the proposed management team, work with banks and other investing institutions on joint financial packages, negotiate appropriate terms, and prepare final submissions for SDA approval. Additionally, you will supervise legal implementation of investments and be responsible for managing part of the existing portfolio of over 100 invested companies.

Aged between 28 and 33, special personal qualities are essential - sound commercial and financial judgement, communication and negotiation skills of the highest level, sound experience and the ability to assess people. You should have a good honours degree and a further qualification in management, finance or related subject with a comprehensive understanding of law and company taxation. Experience of investment or merchant banking would be valuable.

Apply in writing quoting post reference number

T/INV12 to:
David Swift,
Staff Executive,
Scottish Development Agency,
120 Bothwell Street,
Glasgow G2 7JP.

All applications must be submitted within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement.
Open to male and female applicants.



High Finance Prospects

If you're a qualified accountant, business appraiser, or hold another relevant qualification, and are interested in joining a company which offers you unlimited scope for career development and for exercising all your skills and talents, IBM UK believe they have the answer.

As a leader in its field - developing, manufacturing, and selling a highly successful range of information technology products, IBM deals in answers.

At our UK headquarters in Portsmouth, we have a strong team of finance professionals who provide all the technical knowledge and expertise we require to maintain the highest rates of growth and success. With a far-reaching influence into all aspects of the company's work, they are close to the centre of our operations and are well-placed to contribute to our continued development in a rapidly expanding industry. Several excellent opportunities have now arisen for ambitious men and women to join us in the following areas:

INTERNAL AUDIT

Our energetic Internal Audit Department offers a great deal of scope, embracing all functions of the company. You'll be able to gain invaluable experience in the management and control systems we operate. There will also be some travel to other IBM locations within the UK.

We're looking for business graduates or qualified accountants with approximately 5 years' experience in industry, finance or administration. Opportunities abound for real career development, and progression into other areas of finance.

CONTROL AND AUDIT

We are seeking a business graduate or qualified accountant to join our Business Controls and Finance Systems Department. Your main responsibility will be to ensure that the system and development of internal computer systems are aware of and endeavour to fulfil control and auditability requirements. You will therefore be playing a key role in the design of new systems and in recommending modifications for those already in use.

You're probably aged between 28 and 33 with several years' relevant experience and a specialist knowledge of auditability and control requirements in computer systems.

FINANCE SYSTEMS SUPPORT ANALYSIS

A number of analysts are required within our Business Controls and Finance Systems Department, to lend their support and expert knowledge to end-users of computer systems in finance departments. This will involve translating users' requirements into systems-based solutions and helping users to develop their own applications.

If you're in your mid-20s to early 30s with proven technical aptitude and several years' experience in the development of computer systems with the users' needs specifically in mind, this could be the ideal opportunity for you. Individual familiarity with the IBM, APL, or VM systems would be advantageous.

For all these positions we offer excellent salaries accompanied by a full range of benefits including contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and BUPA membership.

Please write, enclosing a comprehensive c.v., to Valerie Wills in the Personnel Department at IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 3AL.



- 16,000 jobs in over 40 UK locations
- Two manufacturing plants
- Development laboratory near Winchester
- An equal opportunity employer
- £745 million exports in 1983
- £146 million invested in UK in 1983

IBM

Director-South UK

location-Watford
to £26,000
+ bonus + car

If you are aged between 28 and 35, have five years' or more senior sales experience in transport or vehicle leasing, and are hard-working, ambitious and personable, then you will welcome the challenge we offer.

TIP Trailer Rental is the world leader in the fast-growing and exciting business of international trailer rental, and is part of a group with sales turnover in excess of £600 million.

We require a Director to take full responsibility for our business in the Southern UK.

Please write with full details of your career to date, and information on how you qualify for this unique opportunity, to Mr J.A. Cleary, TIP Trailer Rental, Star House, 69/71 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1DQ.



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(Registered as a Charity)

Chief Executive

£21,000 p.a. (No fringe benefits) London

Project Fullemploy (turnover £1.8 million, staff 120) marshals the goodwill and resources of the private sector in partnership with central and local government, to meet the needs of those at the greatest disadvantage in getting and keeping jobs. 1,000 trainees, mainly from inner city black communities, are accepted annually on 20 programmes at twelve training centres in London, Bristol and the West Midlands (75% find work).

Your prime tasks will include doubling capacity over the next three years, strengthening the financial base, staff development and building on the existing effective training techniques.

Responsibilities include management of a complex, professional company, policy recommendations, large-scale resource-raising (cash, people, equipment), and high level relationships and negotiation with central and local government, business and local communities.

Proven general management ability is essential, preferably in a significant and innovative organisation, where leadership skills are critical, in the public, private or voluntary sectors.

Please write - in confidence - to P.M.E. Springman.

Project Fullemploy is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the Community.

HAY-MSL Selection and Advertising Limited,
52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AW.

Offices in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australasia and Asia Pacific.

HAY-MSL

MANAGEMENT SELECTION

TELEVISION NEWS REPORTER

To join the television news team reporting events in Wales for the nightly programme *Wales Today*, the network bulletins of BBC television news when required and occasionally for networked current affairs programmes and BBC Wales regional news and current affairs programmes on radio and television. We are looking for an energetic journalist of presentable appearance, preferably with broadcasting experience, who can work quickly and accurately under pressure. We need someone with bright ideas and initiative, a good understanding of current affairs in Wales, the ability to cover events in the field using PSC cameras as well as reporting in the studio, a good microphone voice and current driving licence. A knowledge of, and interest in, sport would be desirable.

Salary £13,940 - £18,094 plus allowance of £916 p.a. Two year contract. Based Cardiff.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote ref. 3810/T and enclose s.a.e.): BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-927 5799.

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The post-holder, one of two Deputy Directors, will manage and provide professional leadership to the operations of SWS at Headquarters and in Regions. The post is based in London, at Alexander Fleming House.

Candidates should preferably

possess a university degree and a qualification in social work. Substantial experience is necessary at high level in organisations concerned with the personal social services.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 11 January 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/6415/3.

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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

At-home guide to languages

"The only way to learn a language is by going to the country, and living there", I was told by one teacher of 12 years' experience. Most of his colleagues broadly agree, but unfortunately this is not always a practical or possible method. Businessmen are in a particularly invidious position in this respect since, while the requirement for additional languages becomes more urgent, they have less and less time in which to learn them, and a year's sabbatical to learn Mandarin or Urdu is usually out of the question.

There are many options open to the busy executive. For the majority a crash course of individual tuition followed by frequent use of the language (it's important to keep practising) seems to work best. Companies like Linguarama, Language Studies Limited, and The Executive Language Centre cater for this market. All these schools, using the famous "Berlitz" inspired "direct method" (only the target language is used during tuition) stress the need for a knowledge of the grammar and structure of the language, although this is usually very informally taught.

All stress that the language learning process is highly personal, and structure their courses around the individual.

Direct method pack

Tuition is limited to six hours a day, any more is self-teaching. Mrs. Arend-Osborn says. She is also unenthusiastic about two people learning together explaining that it is no less expensive since the whole process takes longer. John Burditt of Linguarama strongly advises husbands and wives against learning together. Apparently familiarity breeds, if not contempt, then at least a lack of the polite patience of comparative strangers.

Of the three schools only Language Studies uses Video as a teaching aid, and other aids used depend to a large extent on the teacher (or teachers, both Linguarama and Language Studies give you a new teacher for the second half of the day). Another company, Stilltron, sells a compre-

Clare Raffael discusses the choices and courses available to the busy executive who needs to learn another language

hensive system which combines a number of hours of individual tuition with a kind of home learning pack. This consists of a set of cassettes and an illustrated "direct method" publication which is used in conjunction with a "world-patented, nickel-plated, printed-circuit response-analyser."

This is actually quite a simple and effective device which enables you to go through the multiple-choice questions in the book without having to go through the awkward business of looking up the answer, and as many times as you need. The gadget flashes alarmingly red for a wrong answer and green for a correct one. The home learning pack alone costs £390. Individual tuition costs vary dramatically from school to school and it really is worth shopping around with an eye to cost as well as suitability.

Group learning is a cheaper alternative. It may be less convenient and slow learners can hold up a group, but it does introduce an additional competitive motivation and gives the student a standard against which to measure his progress. The BOL 450 beginners residential courses run by the London Chamber of Commerce are a good example. They are based on a teaching technique first developed by Professor Boland putting the group situation to advantage as much as possible and involving frequent changes of activity to maintain concentration and interest. In six days most students will have picked up a basic vocabulary of 450 words. Courses are run at regular intervals throughout the year and cost £595 exclusive of VAT.

Individuals who must foot their own bills may find it difficult to afford these commercial rates. For those who wish to learn German there are the subsidised courses run by the Goethe-Institute, based in major cities throughout England. I tried a Saturday morning course which was excellent and very lively. The Institute also runs evening courses, but, bear in mind concentration after a hard day's work is difficult. The intense courses are probably the best.

and the Institute runs four week courses throughout the year which cost £60. Other cultural institutes and societies run similarly subsidised courses.

Some very good courses are run by the Polytechnics at a thoroughly reasonable price. Their credentials are impeccable of course, a point worth noting since the commercial sector of the field has earned a reputation, less true now, of being a happy hunting ground for less than reputable outfits. The Polytechnic of the South Bank has an impressive four stage method using a language laboratory, video cassettes, a micro computer and individual sessions with a tutor. For much of the time the student is teaching himself with the help of machines. This makes the system more flexible and effective but it does require discipline and determination.

Curiously, none of the commercial schools uses micro computers which are an effective aid to learning, particularly for business users. Employed ILEA residents pay £50 for 100 hours attendance taken within a year of enrolment. Unemployed people and pensioners who are resident in the ILEA pay £1.

Tipping the scales

Finally, for those with a basic knowledge which just needs brushing up so that they can confidently ask a taxi driver to take them to a petrol station, give directions, and then know how much to tip, the BBC Get By tapes and books are the instant solution. They cost between £5 and £10 and are available by mail order or in bookshops.

As executive travel increases, and overseas markets become more competitive, languages as a skill will become more important. It may be becoming easier to manage with English only, but due to this very fact, knowledge of a language will tip the scales in the favour of the job candidate, the salesman or the manager.

Information available from the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT): (01-486 8221) and ask for information guide 8.

For details of business language courses, send a SAE to: Careers Horizons, The Times, PO Box 7, LONDON WC1X 8EZ.

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Application forms available from:
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The Editorial Director
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87 Maygrove Road,
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Please send your CV to John Graham, quoting appropriate reference or phone 0223 35320 for an application form. Address your replies to Sinclair Research Limited, 25 Willis Road, Cambridge CB1 2AQ.

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